

Hafa Adai!

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3 test positive in Guam

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The coronavirus contagion has now reached Guam, with Gov. Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero announcing in an emergency press conference late yesterday that three suspected cases of COVID-19 on the territory have tested positive for the virus.



Leon Guerrero

This comes as the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. has submitted a third specimen to

the Guam Public Health Laboratory for COVID-19 testing

See GUAM on Page 4

PSS suspends classes for 3 days

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Public School System is suspending all classes on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota for the next three days in response to three positive COVID-19 cases in Guam.

Also, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter announced last night that the Man'amko Center Congregate Services will cease beginning today, March 16, until further notice.

See PSS on Page 4

Trump declares national emergency

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

U.S. President Donald J. Trump declared a national emergency last Friday, opening access for up to \$50 billion in emergency relief funds to stop the further spread of the novel coronavirus, which has now affected 44 states.

"The action I am taking will open up access to up to \$50

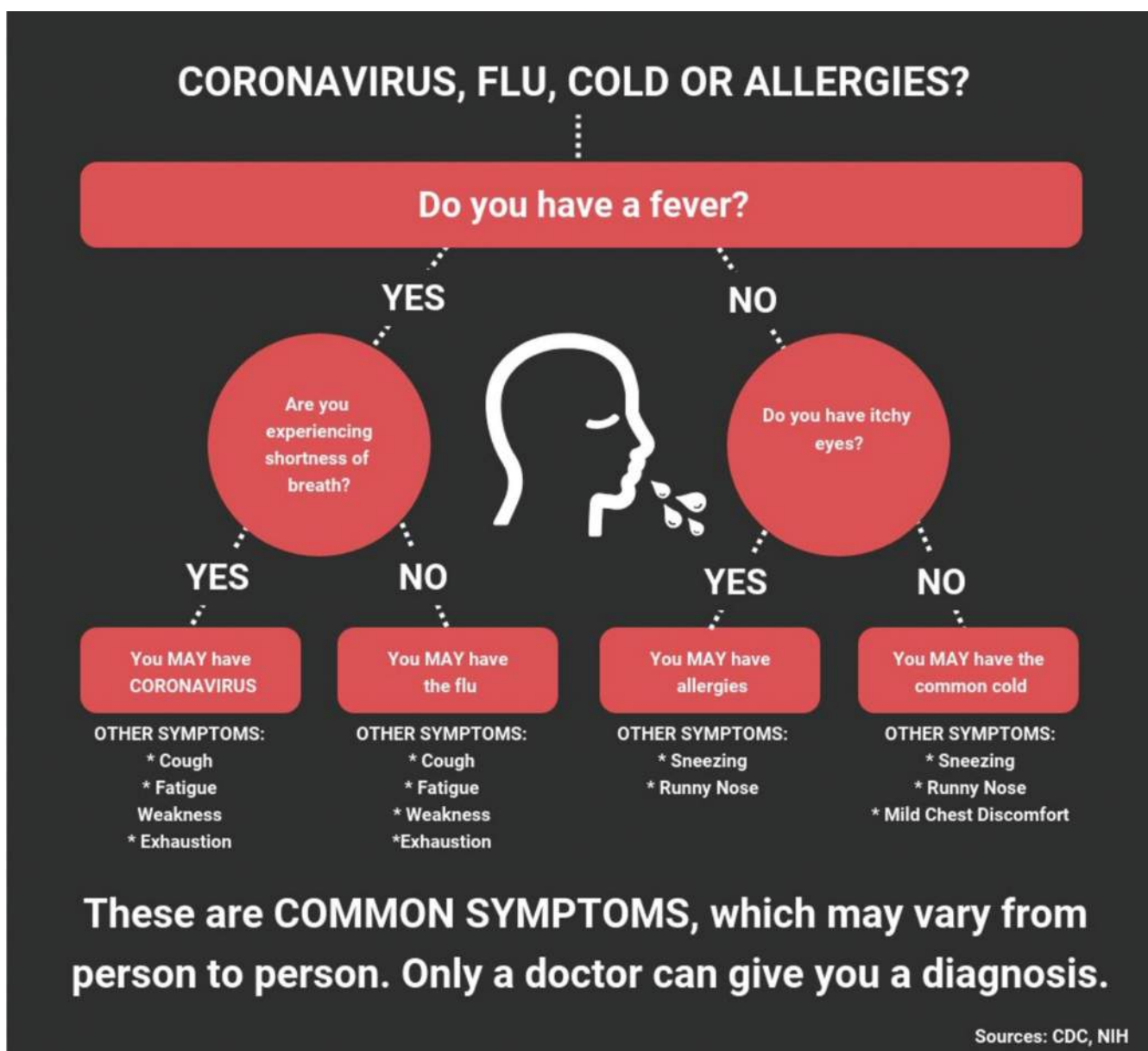
» **44 states now affected by novel coronavirus**

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billion of very important and a large amount of money for

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Ada



Mocanu

PSS, Ada sue Torres, Finance chief

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Public School System and Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada are suing Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres

and Finance Secretary David Atalig in a move that seeks to guarantee for PSS an annual budget of not less than 25% of the Commonwealth's general revenue.

In their lawsuit last Thurs-

day before the Superior Court, Ada and PSS, through counsel Tiberius Mocanu, are suing Torres and Atalig for violation of the NMI Constitution.

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Thousands of police in the Philippines have sealed the densely populated Metro Manila.

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Local

CHCC ups efforts to protect CNMI against COVID-19

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Care Corp. is ratcheting up efforts to detect COVID-19 and other infectious diseases in the Commonwealth by adding to its regular surveillance efforts a pilot program called BioFire, which is a laboratory diagnostic tool.

Through BioFire, CHCC is implementing the first public health-specific laboratory diagnostic tool for infectious

diseases. It is a public health tool that is designed for syndromic surveillance, which is a method that relies on detection of an individual and population health indicators that can detect an illness before it is confirmed and is capable of testing for a variety of pathogens in less than an hour.

Syndromic surveillance is based on two features of a disease, which are symptoms such as sore throat or an upset stomach and a sign of a measurable indication of disease

such as having a body temperature of 102°F. A syndrome is a set of signs and symptoms that occur together.

Some diseases can cause very similar signs and symptoms, especially in the early stages.

Gastroenteritis—which can cause cramps, diarrhea, and vomiting—can be caused by different pathogens.

Should the CHCC notice a number of patients with these symptoms, BioFire can be utilized to test for a common cause. This will reduce CHCC's reliance on off-island

laboratory testing.

This tool cannot test for cases of COVID-19, but it can test for other respiratory pathogens that will make it easier to rule out COVID-19 in a patient who is experiencing respiratory symptoms.

One way that CHCC staff can monitor suspected or confirmed cases is by a Center for Disease Control and Prevention text-based illness monitoring system that the CDC uses for health issue management. The CNMI is now undergoing a pilot project of TIM that was

launched last March 10.

"CHCC continues to implement CNMI-wide surveillance, prevention, and health messaging," said CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña.

According to Warren Villagomez, director of PHEPP, the TIM system was used on people who participated in the Saipan Marathon. SIM cards for the TIM system were provided by the Marianas Visitors Authority and will take account of people during the marathon and after their departure from the CNMI for a 14-day monitoring.

"We are doing everything to assure the community that we are a low-risk island," said Villagomez.

This effort is on top of regular surveillance efforts that allow the CHCC Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Program under the Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program, to swiftly respond to disease outbreaks based on confirmed or suspected cases, in order to reduce the effects on the population and prevent more people from getting infected.

SHRM meeting on April 3

The Society for Human Resource Management-NMI Chapter will have a general membership meeting on Friday, April 3, 2020, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom, beginning at 9:30am.

This meeting is open to the public. The guest speaker is Milton J. Perkins, P.D., SHRM-SCP, SPHR, vice president of ActOne Government Solutions, Inc., who will be talking about talent management and

how to develop and manage people in a way that will encourage valuable resources to stay longer.

The meeting includes morning refreshments only at the cost of \$35 for SHRM members and \$45 for non-members. Reserve your seat by contacting Roman Tudela by email at tudela.roman@gmail.com or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt.com or by telephone at 670-323-5867/68. (PR)



MCDONALD'S WORKSHOP

McDonald's operations associate Maria Fernando, seated front row left, did a "Scheduling, Staffing and Positioning" Regional Training Workshop for McDonald's Guam and Saipan on March 12 at McDonald's of Guam training room. The training workshop was attended by the organization's general managers and people department managers. Also in attendance was McDonald's of Yigo area supervisor Joe Ayuyu Jr., standing far left, owner/operator Marcia Ayuyu, front row, center, training coordinator Majellyn Calceta, seated front row far right, and director of operations Pacifico Martir, standing right.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO





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Kilili: House-passed coronavirus bill helps Marianas

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. House of Representatives has acted swiftly again to help America deal with the impact of the coronavirus, passing the Families First Coronavirus Response Act by a vote of 363-40 last March 14. The bill aids individuals and families, experiencing immediate financial hardship as a result of the coronavirus. It also clears the way for free testing, so the spread of the disease can be better tracked. Just last week, the House passed legislation with \$8.3 billion to respond to the health crisis and will likely act again in the weeks ahead with more funding to contain the coronavirus and reduce the economic harm to people, businesses, and state and territorial governments.

"We were able to get more Medicaid money for the Marianas and a reduced local match included in the Families First Act," said Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP). There is \$5.425 million for Marianas Medicaid, adding to \$120 million Sablan already secured for the program in December.

"This will help us pay for treatment, if we have coronavirus patients in the Marianas," Sablan said. "The Act also further cuts the Marianas local match from 17% to 10.8%, which is especially good given the shortfall in Commonwealth government revenues from the loss of tourism."

To make sure cost does not stop people from getting tested for the coronavirus, the House-passed bill provides \$1 billion for the National Disaster Medical System for free tests for those who do not have health insurance. And the Act allows anyone covered by Medicare Advantage or Original Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, VA, FEHBP, and TRICARE insurance also to get tested at no cost.

"Availability of testing remains a problem nationwide," Sablan said. "Even if tests are free, if people cannot get a test nearby or tests take a long time to process, then we will not have the information we need to keep the virus from spreading."

"Right now, Marianas tests have to go to Hawaii. The congressional office is pressing this issue with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and with Health and Human Services' Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response."

"I am encouraged the Commonwealth [Health] Center has ordered lab equipment that allows for the necessary DNA analysis. And [the Commonwealth Health Care Corp.] has already been allocated \$370,000 from last week's

Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act to reimburse that and other costs of making tests available here in the Marianas."

Food aid

The bill the House passed Saturday also aims to make sure families and school children have enough to eat, if the coronavirus cuts household incomes. There is a special set-aside of \$100 million for the Marianas, American Samoa, and Puerto Rico to supplement the local nutrition assistance programs.

The Marianas will benefit from emergency funding for WIC, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children. WIC will provide food for low-income pregnant women or mothers with young children who are out of work due to the coronavirus emergency. And there is \$400 million to assist food banks nationwide, including in the Marianas, meet increased demand.

Another \$250 million is for the Senior Nutrition Program to provide home-delivered meals. A local match is waived. "With seniors particularly at risk from the coronavirus," said Sablan, "I hope the Marianas will use this new money to encourage our *man'amko* to stay at home and limit their contacts with other people for the time being." Death rates from the virus increase with age.

Children, who depend on school lunch and other feeding programs, will be protected. In the event schools are closed for five consecutive days, extra food assistance will be provided to students' families.

Paid leave, unemployment compensation

Other provisions of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act address the situation of workers who stay home to avoid spreading the virus or because they or family members become ill. The Act establishes an Emergency Paid Leave Program that would replace a significant share of those workers' lost wages.

"The original House bill had the Social Security administrator send a check directly to the eligible workers," Sablan said. "But the Trump administration held up the bill by insisting on making businesses pay the cost and then apply for a tax credit. That will be hard for businesses in the Marianas and nationwide."

"Fortunately, [U.S. House] Speaker [Nancy] Pelosi did include a cover over of the cost of the tax credit for the government of the Marianas and other insular areas," Sa-

blan added.

The Act also provides \$1 billion for emergency grants to states that experience increases in claims for unemployment insurance compensation. The Marianas does not have an unemployment insurance system to protect laid-off workers.

"I have in the past recommended to governors and the Legislature that they consider enacting unemployment insurance for Marianas workers, because federal financial aid, like today's legislation, is often based on state and territorial systems," Sablan said.

"With hotels, restaurants, and other businesses in the Marianas already suffering because of the coronavirus, people will be laid off from their jobs and could use unemployment insurance."

"I will certainly be working in the days ahead to make sure other federal aid gets to those who lose their jobs. The Disaster Unemployment Assistance program, for instance, that provided benefits to individuals out of work after typhoons Soudelor and Yutu, should become available now that the President has declared

a nationwide public health emergency."

President Trump declared a national emergency on Friday and encouraged governors to consider requesting federal assistance. The President's action makes available the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Disaster Relief Fund, worth \$47.917 billion as the agency reported to Congress last month. The Fund can be used as a source for the Community Disaster Loan program to help local governments make up for revenue shortfalls following a disaster.

Both Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands used this program to make up for revenue losses following hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.

House leaders negotiated intensely with the Trump administration over the week before bringing the Families First Coronavirus Response Act to the floor for a vote at 12:53am Saturday morning. And the President declared by tweet he was ready to sign "ASAP." But Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky) sent the Senate home over the weekend without taking action.

The Senate is expected to consider the bill next week. (PR)



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TRUMP

From Page 1

states and territories and localities in our shared fight against this disease,” Trump said during the press conference following his emergency declaration.

The United States now has 2,329 COVID-19 cases, with 50 total deaths. The CNMI has no reported cases to date.

Trump, under the declaration, urged states to set up emergency operations centers, and asked every hospital in the country to activate emergency preparedness plans.

“We’ll remove or eliminate every obstacle necessary to deliver our people the care that they need and that they’re entitled to. No resource will be spared. Nothing whatsoever,” the president stressed.

Relief for small businesses

Aside from health, Trump also extended emergency relief assistance to small business owners who are fiscally impacted by the pandemic.

“Effective immediately, the

Small Business Administration will begin providing economic loans in affected states and territories. These low-interest loans will help small businesses overcome temporary economic disruptions caused by the virus,” he said.

Following the declaration, SBA, under its COVID-19 Disaster Relief Funding, is now offering designated states and territories low-interest federal disaster loans for working capital to small businesses substantially affected by the coronavirus.

SBA will issue an Economic Injury Disaster Loan declaration once they receive a request from CNMI Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. This declaration will make loans available to small businesses and private, non-profit organizations in the CNMI “to help alleviate economic injury caused by COVID-19.”

According to SBA, the loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that cannot be paid due to the virus’ impact.

\$370K to CHCC for coronavirus

Moreover, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has an-

nounced an initial distribution with the \$8.3 billion funding enabled by Congress last week through the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act.

According to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), the CNMI will receive \$369,765.90, and the money can be used for epidemiology, surveillance, laboratory, case identification, monitoring of travelers, data management, and equipment, supplies, and shipping.

The funding can also be used for infection control, surge staffing, emergency operations and coordination, and risk communication.

The reimbursement of allowable costs incurred for these activities from Jan. 20, 2020 to March 6, 2020 is also permitted.

The delegate also asked everyone in the Northern Marianas to take the precautions the CDCP has laid out in terms of practicing good hygiene, careful handling of food, being careful with meetings and travel, and staying home when feeling sick, or when there is a sick family member in their home.

“There is no vaccine nor any specific cure, so our best action now is to keep the coronavirus from spreading. It is easier to contain a fire when it starts on the stove than after it spreads to the whole house,” Sablan added.

Families first

Early morning Saturday, the U.S. House also overwhelmingly passed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, which would provide free COVID-19 testing to everyone, would secure paid leaves for those affected by the virus, and would strengthen Unemployment Insurance.

“The three most important parts

of this bill are testing, testing, testing. This legislation facilitates free coronavirus testing for everyone, including the uninsured,” U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA 12th District) stated.

The legislator stressed that the outbreak can only be defeated if the U.S. has an accurate determination of its scale and scope, so that a precise, science-based response that is necessary can be pursued. “As we develop our next steps, we will continue to listen to and benefit from the expertise of scientists, health care professionals, public health officials and community leaders, so that we can craft the most effective, evidence-based response,” she said.

Sanders wins Democratic Party’s CNMI caucus

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

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REPORTER

Sen. Bernie Sanders (D-VT) won the Democratic Party’s caucus in the CNMI over former vice president Joe Biden Saturday night at the Saipan World Resort’s Taga Ballroom.

Sanders got 77 votes from Saipan, three from Tinian, and four from Rota, for a total of 84 votes.

Biden received 40 votes from Saipan, zero from Tinian, and eight from Rota, for a total of 48 votes.

There were a total of 134 participants, including two uncommitted from Saipan, or who did not pledge to a particular candidate.

Nola Kileman Hix, the Democratic Party of the NMI chairwoman, said in an interview Saturday that Sanders got 84 votes and was awarded four delegates, while Biden was awarded two delegates because he only got 48 votes.

Democrats also elected six “pledged delegates” to the National Convention of the Democratic Party during the caucus, with simultaneous sub-caucuses held at the Northern Marianas College’s VTC rooms on Tinian and Rota.

The elected “pledged candidates” for Sanders were Christian Punzalan, Stephen C. Woodruff, Bertran

Palacios, and one still to be decided. For Biden, elected were Ambrose M. Bennett and Maria Tenorio Camacho, with Eloise Rose Enrico Lopez as alternate.

This means that the six delegates are pledged to support a particular candidate at the Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin this July 13-16. The six “pledged candidates” and five automatic delegates will be going to the convention.

The five automatic delegates are Hix, Democratic Party vice chair Daniel Quitugua, National Committeeman Michael White, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), and whoever will be elected as the National Committee woman.

By rule, a presidential preference must get at least 15% of the total vote in order to be awarded at least one delegate, Hix said.

Because there were exactly three names on the delegate selection form for Sanders, all three of them get to go to the convention, Hix said, adding that the three delegates need to get together as a delegation and decide who their fourth person will be.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

PSS

From Page 1

The Garapan Street Market (Thursday Market) will also cease until further notice. All after-school and weekend activities at the Tanapag Youth Center and the Kagman Community Center will cease until further notice. The Flame Tree Arts Festival that was initially slated for April will be postponed—the new dates will be forthcoming.

Hunter made a department-wide announcement that any other planned congregate activities of the DCCA must also be postponed until further notice and encouraged everyone to take the precautionary steps outlined by the Division of Public Health for their safety.

According to Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada late yesterday afternoon, he has decided to suspend all classes from March 16 to 19 to allow principals to come together and list all students who have travelled off-island

to determine who should be monitored for possible COVID-19.

Ada said the three-day suspension is the initial step and classes could be suspended indefinitely depending on the principals’ findings.

Ada said he is also set to meet with his team today to discuss possibly shutting down classes for the remainder of the school year and moving all classes online.

Ada is encouraging all students to stay at home and practice COVID-19 preventative measures.

GUAM

From Page 1

last Friday. The result of that test has yet to be made public.

Leon Guerrero said that two of the positive COVID-19 patients came from the Philippines via a United Airlines flight from Manila last March 2. The third individual has no travel history. All three are confined at the Guam Memorial Hospital.

Earlier, Leon Guerrero and Federated States of Micronesia President David W. Panuelo declared state of emergency declarations in their respective jurisdictions in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to a CHCC statement on Friday, a Commonwealth Health Center clinician requested last March 13 that a patient be tested for coronavirus infection since the individual met the surveillance case definition for the disease. The statement was quick to point out, though, that the patient does not meet the COVID-19 “person under investigation” criteria and does not meet the CDC case definition of a COVID-19 PUI.

The CHCC statement clarified that this does not mean that the CNMI has a confirmed case, and will have more information once it comes available. The patient is considered a suspect of low-priority and CHCC is taking precautionary measures.

So far, the coronavirus virus has infected more than 150,000 people worldwide and killed over 5,600.

In an interview with CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña, she stated that when a patient goes into self-quarantine they will be receiving a SIM card, under the Text Illness Monitoring system that was launched last March 10. This will be a way to monitor the patient for a 14-day period.

The first time CHCC submitted a specimen for testing to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention laboratory in Atlanta, Georgia was last Feb. 11 and the patient was also a low-priority patient, meaning that the patient didn’t meet the full CDC criteria of a person who has the virus. Last Feb. 21, CHCC received confirmation from the CDC that the sample was negative.

The second time CHCC submitted a specimen for testing to a laboratory in Hawaii was last March 5, and the patient was also a low-priority patient and did not meet the full CDC criteria of a person who has the virus. The next day, March 6, CHCC received confirmation from Hawaii that it has been confirmed negative for COVID-19.

Until then, CHCC reminds everyone that the best way to protect oneself and others from the virus and other illnesses is to practice good basic health and hygiene such as:

■ Washing your hands for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

■ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

■ Avoiding close contact with people who are sick, stay home when you are sick.

■ Covering your cough/sneeze with a tissue and properly disposing of it.

■ Cleaning and disinfecting touched objects and surfaces frequently.

Guam Regional Medical City also announced an important change to its visitor policy in response to the COVID-19 situation. This new policy will go into effect today, March 16, 2020. Effective on that date, visitors will be limited to one per patient. The new visitation policy will apply to in-patients and out-patients during visiting hours, which are from 9am to 9pm daily. The new visitation policy will include pre-op patients and the Intensive Care Unit, who will be limited to one visitor per patient. ICU visiting hours are from 9am to 9:15pm for the first 15 minutes of every hour.

The new visitation policy will also affect patients in the Emergency Room, who will be limited to one visitor per patient.

In addition, on Monday, March 16, GRMC will begin health screening for all visitors. Visitors will be screened for temperature and any recent travel.

This new visitation policy will be in effect until further notice and is subject to change to meet the safety and security needs of patients, visitors and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SUE

From Page 1

Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio recused herself from handling the case last Friday, saying she is close family friends with the teacher representative on the Board of Education. Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja has yet to reassign the case to another judge.

Mocanu said that Article 15 section 1(e) of the NMI Constitution provides that “the PSS shall be guaranteed an annual budget of not less than 15% of the general revenues of the Commonwealth through an annual appropriation.”

Mocanu said Article 15 Section 1(e) was further amended by House Legislative Initiative 18-12, and ratified by the voters of the CNMI, to increase PSS’ guaranteed funding to 25% of the “general revenues” of the Commonwealth.

The lawyer said Public Law 21-08, which set the Commonwealth government budget for fiscal year 2020, appropriated \$37,718,904 to PSS, which he said is only about 16% of the budget. Mocanu did not

specify the amount that PSS believes it should receive.

Mocanu said Torres is in violation of the NMI Constitution because he is carrying out payments and collections under P.L. 21-08. Atalig, meanwhile, is in violation of the NMI Constitution because every allotment and disbursement made pursuant to P.L. 21-08 is unconstitutional, Mocanu said.

PSS and Ada asked the court to declare P.L. 21-08 to be unconstitutional. Both asked the court to issue a preliminary and permanent injunction to stop Torres and Atalig from issuing any payments or disbursements that do not comply with the Constitution.

Mocanu said that P.L. 21-08 identified total budgetary resources of \$233.22 million. After several allocations for earmarks, P.L. 21-08 provided \$148.89 million as available for appropriation. He said the subtotal of \$84,331,519, which is the total revenue diverted as earmarks, is excluded from the money available for appropriation to other entities such as PSS.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

Seven ex-workers ask court to sanction IPI again

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The seven men who are suing their former employer, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, and its contractor and subcontractor over the alleged injuries they suffered during accidents at the work-site of IPI's casino/resort project in Garapan, have asked the federal court to again sanction IPI for allegedly violating the court's order.

The seven plaintiffs, through counsel Aaron Halegua and Bruce Berline, said that IPI violated the U.S. Dis-

trict Court for the NMI's initial order to produce all discovery materials by Jan. 13, 2020. Halegua and Berline said that IPI now also violated the stipulation ordered by the court requiring it to produce all discovery materials by Feb. 24, 2020.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still awaiting comments from IPI.

The lawyers asked the court to treat IPI's failure to obey the orders as contempt of court and for it to impose a civil



Berline

contempt sanction of \$5,000 per day. Halegua and Berline also asked the court to instruct IPI that any further noncompliance with its discovery obligations will result in harsher sanctions such as striking its pleadings or entering a default judgment.

They asked the court to award plaintiffs' attorneys' fees in connection with IPI's disobedience of the court's prior discovery orders.

Halegua and Berline said the plaintiffs are sympathetic

to IPI counsel's recent personal issues but that does not excuse IPI's consistent violations of court orders over the course of many months.

Last December, the plaintiffs requested the court to award them \$31,801 in attorneys' fees and \$156 in costs in connection with their motion to compel. The issue is pending in court.

At a hearing last Dec. 12, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted the former



Halegua

workers' counter-motion to compel IPI to respond to their discovery requests. Manglona ordered IPI to respond to all discovery requests.

The judge also granted the workers' motion to sanction IPI and ordered the company to pay attorneys' fees to the plaintiffs/workers for bringing the motion to compel.

The plaintiffs—Tianming Wang, Dong Han, Yongjun Meng, Liangcai Sun, Youli Wang, Qingchun Xu, and Xiyang Du—are suing IPI, MCC International Saipan Ltd. Co., and MCC's subcontractor, Gold Mantis Construction

Decoration (CNMI) LLC.

The plaintiffs, who are all Chinese nationals, are suing the defendants for alleged forced labor in violation of the Trafficking Victims Protection Re-authorization Act, forced labor in violation of the CNMI Anti-Trafficking Act, negligence, and liability for employees of subcontractor.

The workers alleged, among other things, that they were forced to work long hours for below minimum wage under extremely dangerous conditions at the casino-resort worksite.

IPI said any wage claims by the plaintiffs are barred because they voluntarily illegally entered the CNMI to work.

Census count vital to CNMI community

By **IVA MAURIN**
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REPORTER

All CNMI residents are being encouraged to participate in the 2020 CNMI, and in all activities that will help raise awareness of it.

In designating April 1 as Census Day, similar to a national declaration, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres pointed out that more than \$675 billion in federal funds is awarded annually to communities based on Census data.

"The data that is collected is crucial to the development of the most important aspect of our society. The 2020 Census is safe and easy to complete, and the Census Bureau protects all private information," said Torres at the proclamation signing last Thursday.

The CNMI Census officially started their count, following the launch of its Enumeration Phase on March 1.

Over 200 Census enumerators are now going house-to-house, wearing red and with two official IDs, conducting interviews that last for 45 minutes on the average, all the way until May 30, 2020.

"The job ahead is very, very important," said Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios. "The proclamation talks about resource allocations to small community like ours that [are] very critical for services we provide our community."

Palacios stressed that it is important that the CNMI population be counted accurately, and that all the different nuances of the community be captured, adding that these will help the government drive in terms of policy and human resource allocation.

"We would know where schools are, or needs to be, we would know where public health facilities and other functions of public services in different parts of our community. ...Further, island communities like ours really depend on investments, ei-

ther outside, foreign investment, or even the domestic investments from the U.S. mainland."

For residents who are worried about confidentiality, U.S. Census Bureau adviser Colleen Joyce said that all responses are confidential and protected by law.

Census employees took an oath and are sworn for life to protect everyone's personal information, responses will never be shared with any immigration or law enforcement agencies, and will only be used to create statistics that would benefit the community.

"Responses shape decisions, federal funds are spent



Torres



Palacios

for schools, fire and emergency services, health care, veteran services, and many other types of services. Governments and business use census results to plan for new investments, services and jobs. We only get one chance every 10 years, or one shot to get this information to drive all of these decisions," Joyce added.

All the information gathered will help shape the future of the CNMI community.

"I can't express how important it is to get the right count for the CNMI because this census data is what will be referenced by government and businesses in policy and investments," said Commerce

Secretary Mark O. Rabauliman. "This whole process is not easy. I know we are on a time crunch but I also know we have the best team for this job. The goal for the 2020 census is to count every one once, only once and in the right place."

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DCCA consolidates offices to cut costs

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs temporarily reorganized and relocated a number of the divisions and programs under the DCCA in attempt to scale down operational costs.

"We decided to...temporarily re-assign...employees to programs that are in most need of additional support during this time, and to perform work that is beneficial to the community but not require significant operational cost," said DCCA Secretary Robert H. Hunter.

In addition, Hunter stated that DCCA is working to

transfer locally funded employees to federally funding sources. Details of how they intend to do that is still unclear at this point.

Hunter said that DCCA is keeping a close eye on the operation of their offices, vehicles, while meeting with staff to ensure that the federal grant programs remain well-managed and legal mandates are carried out.

Hunter stated that DCCA is trying to balance its commitment to its employees, while also implementing cost-cutting during this crucial economic period. He added that he understands that every employee and every program and service will "need to step

up and make the temporary changes necessary to see costs brought to a bare minimum."

"I am extremely proud of the work we do and of our department staff who, time and time again—whether it is recovery after a super typhoon or facing the challenge of a world health crisis and associated economic crisis—step up to the plate to do what is necessary to see us back to a better place," said Hunter.

The divisions and programs that are affected are the Chamorro-Carolinian Language Policy Commission, CNMI Respite Service Program, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, Child Care Licensing Program, DCCA

Sports Program, and the Office of the Secretary.

More information on new contact information for the af-

ected offices will be provided to the public early this week.

T Galleria Saipan donates \$3,500 to NMC



T Galleria Saipan recently donated \$3,500 in cash and merchandise to the Northern Marianas College Foundation. The NMC Foundation will be hosting its 16th Annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, March 21, 2020 at the LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

T Galleria Saipan recently donated \$3,500 in cash and merchandise to the Northern Marianas College Foundation as part of ongoing fundraising ef-

orts by the foundation, which will be hosting its 16th Annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, March 21, 2020 on the east course of the LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort. This year's tournament aims to raise funds for the college's Super Typhoon Yutu recovery efforts.

"NMC plays a vital role in our community in helping to expand workforce opportunities for the CNMI," said Marian Aldan-Pierce, president of T Galleria Saipan. "We are proud to be a part of the NMC Foundation tournament once again."

Frankie Eliptico, NMC interim president, received the donation on behalf of the foundation. (PR)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to our SuperDad/grandpa, Abel Valenzuela, who is celebrating his special day today, March 16, 2020. We wish you many more blessing and healthy years to come! We love you. Greetings come from your wife, children and grandchildren.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Assistant Manager Audit; Bachelor in Accounting (may be foreign equiv); 2 yrs as senior auditor. Supervises, designs & preps audit plans for clients in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards of certified accounting firm located in Saipan, CNMI. Performs detailed review of audit work & provides on-the-job training, coaching & performance feedback. Preps findings & recommendations for clients. Send resume to Deloitte & Touche LLC, P.O. Box 500308, Saipan, MP 96950.

Zheng, Xiaoxin and Gao, Juan
PMB 2555 Box 10002 Susupe Saipan

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the)
Petition for the)
Change of Name of:)
E.Z.X.) FCD CN
Minor Child) CIVIL ACTION
) NO. 20-0082
By:) NOTICE OF
Zheng, Xiaoxin and) HEARING
Gao, Juan)
Petitioner(s))

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on March 30, 2020, at 9:00a.m. in Courtroom Supreme Court, before Honorable Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 3rd day of March, 2020

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

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NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

LODESTAR, LLC.,
A CNMI Limited Liability Company,
was dissolved on December 10, 2019.
Any creditor and person with an outstanding claim against the corporation is requested to notify the corporate office as soon as possible.

LODESTAR, LLC.
PMB208, Box 10000
Saipan, MP, 96950



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION (NMHC)

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.net

Amendment No. 1

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2020

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated \$1,323,285.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of \$867,556.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); \$386,617.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, \$69,112.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2020.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning November 14, 2019. You may also obtain the application online at www.nmhc.gov.net in the section titled "Public Notice/Announcement" subsection "Community Planning Development"

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by **March 31, 2020, no later than 4:30 p.m.** Applications submitted after March 31, 2020, will not be accepted.

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows:

February 12, 2020, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Tinian—
February 10, 2020, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Rota
February 13, 2020, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Saipan
February 14, 2020, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Rota—
February 14, 2020, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Tinian

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the Rota Mayor's Office Conference Room in Tatachog.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Ms. Tricia Tenorio, Planner at 234-6866 or 234-9447.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

Tinian Field Office
Tel: (670)433-9213
Fax: (670)433-3690

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Rota Field Office
Tel: (670)532-9410
Fax: (670)532-9441

Bridge Capital files foreclosure suit vs former Fish & Wildlife director

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Bridge Capital LLC filed Wednesday a land foreclosure lawsuit before the Superior Court against former CNMI Fish & Wildlife director Sylvan O. Igisomar.

Bridge Capital, through counsel Daniel T. Guidotti, asked the court to hold the now Virginia-based Igisomar liable to pay not less than \$827,568, consisting of \$605,000 in principal, and \$22,568 in accrued interest.

Igisomar is the fee simple owner of the lot located in Chalan Laulau.

Guidotti asked the court to allow Bridge Capital to sell the lot if Igisomar fails to pay the full amount he owes no later than 90 days after the day of judgment and, once the lot is sold, Igisomar and all persons claiming through him should be barred from further claims to the land. The lawyer said that, after the sale, the purchaser should be allowed to take immediate possession of the land.

According to Guidotti in the complaint, on Dec. 15, 2018, Bridge Capital lent \$550,000 to Initiative, Intelligence, In-

novations, Investment CNMI, LLC, or 4Is.

In the loan agreement, Guidotti said, 4Is promised to pay 16% interest per year on the initial \$550,000 principal balance and 24% interest per year on the principal balance after an event of default.

Guidotti said in order to induce Bridge Capital to lend money, 4Is asked Concepcion O. Igisomar to provide security for the sums advanced to 4Is.

He said in exchange for \$54,400 and as security for 4Is' repayment of sums due under the promissory note, Concepcion Igisomar mortgaged her entire interest in the Chalan Laulau lot to Bridge Capital through a mortgage instrument dated Dec. 18, 2015.

Concepcion was the sole owner of the lot at the time she gave the mortgage to Bridge Capital.

Guidotti said the promissory note matured on June 18, 2016 and that 4Is did not repay sums due and as a result, defaulted under the note.

Guidotti said as a result of the late fee, the total principal balance that 4Is owed to Bridge Capital increased from \$550,000 to \$605,000.

He said the entire \$605,000 principal balance began accruing interest at 24% on June 19, 2019.

The lawyer said that in June 2018, Bridge Capital received \$322,000 from 4Is as a result of Bridge's efforts to collect.

He said after application of the money received from 4Is in June 2018, the principal balance remained at \$605,000 and the unpaid interest was \$1,135.

He said 4Is made no further payments toward the balance of the note after June 2018.

As of Dec. 31, 2019, the total amount due under the note is \$827,565, Guidotti said.

Guidotti said that, on May 4, 2016, Concepcion Igisomar transferred her entire interest in the mortgaged lot to Sylvan Igisomar. The lawsuit did not mention the relationship between Concepcion and Sylvan Igisomar.

At present, Guidotti said, Sylvan Igisomar is Concepcion Igisomar's successor in interest and is the fee simple owner of the lot.

The lawyer said because Sylvan Igisomar failed to pay the entire balance due under the note, Bridge Capital is entitled to foreclose on the lot.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-IFB-19-036, REV. 1

MANNED SECURITY and ELECTRONIC MONITORING SERVICES

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive bids from qualified firms to provide Manned Security and Electronic Monitoring Services for various sites at CUC, Saipan and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$100.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set. If you have previously purchased CUC-IFB-19-036, no purchase is needed but will still have to register in order to receive the package.

Contractors must provide proof of "Indemnity Liability Insurance," specifically covering security workers assigned to CUC's compound. Coverage must be a minimum of \$200,000.00. The Contractor shall agree to and indemnify and hold CUC harmless from and against all liability, loss, damage or injury, and all cost and expenses (including attorneys' fees and costs of any suit related thereto) suffered or incurred by the Cooperative, arising from or related to Contractor's negligent performance under the contract.

Proponents shall provide a certification signed by a principal of the company stating that the company is currently in full compliance with all applicable CNMI and Federal Labor Laws and has been for the past Five (5) years. Proponents shall submit a listing of all of its employees (US & Foreign) with corresponding job titles and a certification of good standing from the CNMI Department of Labor. Failure of the company to provide the certification is grounds to reject the entire Bid.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-19-036-Rev.1, Security Guard Services", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on April 14, 2020**. Late submissions of Bids will not be considered.

This Invitation for bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of Bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the Proponent, awarded a contract.

All Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the Bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a Bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on March 25, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Mafnas, CUC Contracting Specialist via email address john.mafnas@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-IFB-20-001

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF FUEL FOR POWER GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of approximately 20,000,000 US gallons annually of **No. 2-D S15 Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel** for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The No. 2-D S15 Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel shall be uniform, first quality, ultra-low sulfur type, which shall conform in all aspects to the requirements, as set forth in "Standard Specification for Diesel Fuel Oil" **ASTM D975-14**.

All Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

The Bid Price shall remain the same throughout the term of the contract except for the variation in the MOPS and government taxes, duties and fees.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies of the bid shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-20-001, Supply and Delivery of Fuel for Power Generation" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) April 9, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

All responses to this IFB should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract.

Proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 24, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC-Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to CUC-Power Engineer, Venugopal Prabhakar via email address venu.pabrahakar@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC-Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-20-014

LEASE OF OFFICE AND OPERATIONS SUPPORT FACILITY FOR CUC ROTA ADMINISTRATION & OPERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the lease of a suitable office and operations support facility for the Headquarters of CUC's Administration and Operations on the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed office space must comply with American Disabilities Act (ADA), DPW, OSHA and CNMI Zoning regulation.

The IFB package may be obtained at the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration with CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package will be emailed to the registered Proponents email ID. Prospective Proposers for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division to be considered. For registration inquiries, please email Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-20-014, Lease of Office and Operations support facility for CUC Rota Administration and Operation." to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on March 23, 2020** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 9, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to William Gilmore, CUC Deputy Director via email address william.gilmore@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

SSHS, NMC-ENRO help clean up Obyan Beach

Almost 50 volunteers came to Obyan Beach last March 7 to join the Cleanup Brigade of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality to pick up trash at the beach.

The volunteers, made up mostly of students from Saipan Southern High School and Northern Marianas College's Environment and Natural Resources Organization, collected 220 lbs of trash, majority of which were plastic bags, cans, bottles, and bottle caps.

One of the volunteers, Northern Marianas College adjunct faculty adviser Erin Derrington, said the activity not only helps protect the environment, but it also builds community investment in the

CNMI's natural resources.

"We're helping people understand the connection between our land-based activities and our in-water environment," she said.

Concerned that the upcoming government-wide austerity would affect the monthly cleanup, Derrington said that they are hoping to work with partners, the schools and the community, to continue the work.

"A healthy environment is good business for the CNMI...that'll help us get through these tough, tough times, and make sure that our environment and our people are healthy," Derrington said. *(Iva Maurin)*



Volunteers from Saipan Southern High School join the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Cleanup Brigade last March 7 at the Obyan Beach.

IVA MAURIN



Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, March 25, 2020
5:00 PM, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center Building
Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp



A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 02/25/2020 Zoning Board Meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings:

1. Conditional Use Application #2020-0730: Shalom Church proposes to occupy a pre-existing one-story structure for its Church establishment. This use is classified as "Church or Place of Worship" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. TR. 21859-3-1 in Fina Sisu village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

2. Conditional Use Application #2019-5005: Global Corporation Phoenix Garden A proposes to occupy a pre-existing one-story structure for its Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 128 D 36 in Garapan village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

3. Conditional Use Application #2019-5007: Global Corporation Phoenix Garden C proposes to occupy a pre-existing one-story structure for its Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 128 D 43 in Garapan village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

4. Conditional Use Application #2019-4940: Saba Corporation proposes to occupy a pre-existing structure for its Car Wash establishment. This use is classified as "Gas Station, Light Repair" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No 001 I 41 in San Antonio village. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

C. Communication

1. Saipan Northern Islands Legislative Delegation ("SNILD") Proposed Saipan Zoning Law of 2019
2. Nuisance Abatement & Blighted Properties Maintenance Act of 2018 regulation
3. Re-appointment and request for nominees
4. FY 2021 Budget
5. FY 2019 DRAFT Annual Report
6. Department Organizational and Functional Chart

D. Old Business

1. FY 2021 Budget and FY 2019 Annual Report
2. ITB 19-ZB-134 "Vehicle purchase for Enforcement & Operations"
3. Nuisance Abatement & Blighted Properties Maintenance Act of 2018 regulation

E. Executive (Closed) Session

F. New Business

1. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)
2. Offer Letter & Acceptance-Zoning Administrator

G. Miscellaneous

1. Other Matters
2. Announcements
3. Next Meeting

H. Adjournment

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Global Corporation Phoenix Garden A

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Global Corporation proposes to occupy a pre-existing one-story structure for its Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 128 D 36 in Garapan Village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

Date: March 25, 2020

Time: 5:00 pm

Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, March 24, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to yubert.alepuyo@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Mariano Taitano, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Global Corporation dba Phoenix Garden C

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Global Corporation proposes to occupy a pre-existing one-story structure for its Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 128 D 43 in Garapan Village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

Date: March 25, 2020

Time: 5:00 pm

Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, March 24, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to yubert.alepuyo@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Mariano Taitano, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Saba Corporation

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Saba Corporation proposes to occupy a pre-existing structure for its Car Wash establishment. This use is classified as "Gas Station, Light Repair" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No 001 I 41 in San Antonio village. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

Date: March 25, 2020

Time: 5:00 pm

Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, March 24, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to yubert.alepuyo@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Mariano Taitano, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Shalom Church

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Shalom Church proposes to occupy a pre-existing one-story structure for its Church establishment. This use is classified as "Church or Place of Worship" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. TR. 21859-3-1 in Fina Sisu Village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

Date: March 25, 2020

Time: 5:00 pm

Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, March 24, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to yubert.alepuyo@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

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/s/ Mariano Taitano, Chairman



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS

P.O. Box 500830, Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel. (670) 234-3751/52/53
Facebook Address: facebook.com/DPLCNMI • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp



RFP20 – RED004

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: April 24, 2020

“LEASE AND DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC PROPERTIES IN MARPI, SAIPAN”

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Department of Public Lands (DPL), are soliciting sealed proposals from interested and qualified companies or individuals for the purpose of leasing and commercial development of the following public land:

Lot Number	Current Use	Lot Size, M ²
<i>(West of Main Road - Oceanside)</i>		
003 A 05	Race Cart Track	115,500
003 A 06	Mini Golf Course / Hotel	49,500
003 A 07	Main Lobby / Hotel / Cottages	69,300
003 A 08	Villas / Maintenance	30,738
003 A 26	Vacant Land	109,003
Group of Properties West of Main Road:		374,041
<i>(East of Main Road - Inland)</i>		
003 A 15	Pool / Baseball / Open Field	43,637
*NOTE: The swimming pool property will be available at the end of the Year 2021.		
003 A 18	18 Hole Golf Course	905,784
008 A 01	Club - House	30,000
064 A 03	Vacant Land	39,000
Part of TR 7-1 & 8	Vacant Land	56,759
Group of Properties East of Main Road:		1,075,180
Aggregate Area in Square Meters:		1,449,221

The RFP instruction and information package (RFP Packet) is available at the Department of Public Lands office, located on the 2nd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, during the hours of 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays. If hardcopy is preferred, a .50 cents charge per page will assessed, however, full package of RFP is available to download at www.dpl.gov.mp or can be emailed to anyone interested at no cost. Interested proposers from overseas may request an RFP Packet by email.

A non-refundable administrative processing fee of **Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (US \$2,500.00)** is required upon submission of a proposal and payment must be made through cash or check payable to: **Department of Public Lands**. Proposals must be sealed and marked “**RFP20-RED004 - LEASE & DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS IN MARPI, SAIPAN**”. For proposers, one (1) original and five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the following address shown below. Submission deadline is April 24, 2020.

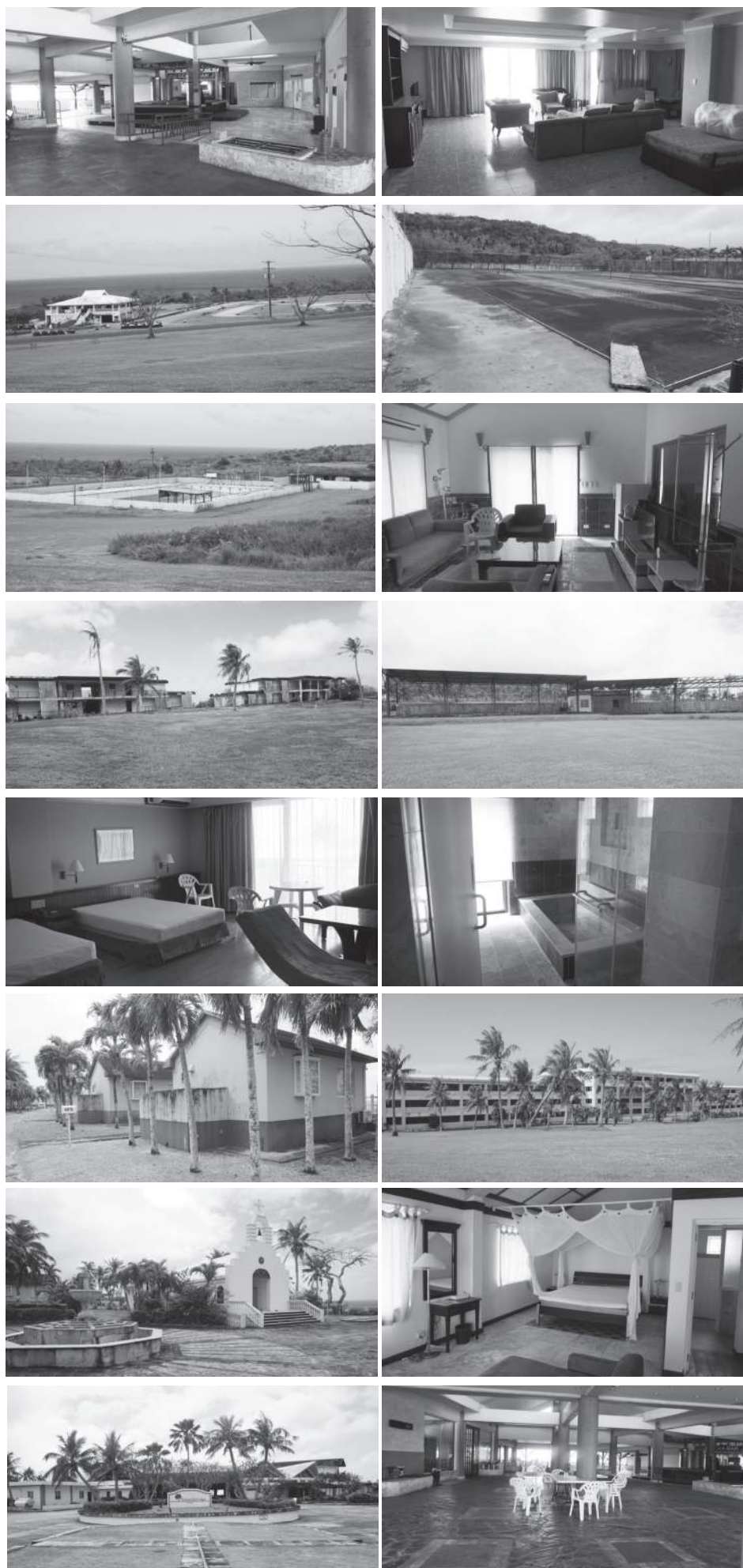
Questions from proposing firms regarding the contents of the RFP packet must be received, **no later than 4:30 pm on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 ChST** and must be submitted in writing via mail, email or facsimile to, Secretary, Department of Public Lands at the following address:

Department of Public Lands
P.O. Box 500380
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone number(s): (670) 234-3751/52/53
Facsimile number: (670) 234-3755
Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

Response to questions will be summarized and shared with all proposers in a “Question and Answer” format.

The DPL reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal, if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of public land beneficiaries. All proposals shall become the sole property of the DPL.

/s/ Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo, Secretary
Department of Public Lands



(For more photos, please visit DPL website at www.dpl.gov.mp)

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

America without sports

Sports isn't just a diversion for Americans. It's a connection. It binds us as lovers of the double steal, the buzzer-beating three-pointer, the slap shot off the crossbar and into the back of the net. Yes, an evening of sports serves as salve for a troubling day at work, a bout of boredom or a breakup. But it also binds us with a sense of community. Sports are personal.

That's why the shutdowns that have broadsided America amid the coronavirus crisis, the stoppage of so many sports and sporting events at all levels—pro, college and high school—has been especially jarring. What do we do now, especially with kids out of school?

You've probably seen the list of cancellations. Major League Baseball, the NBA, the NHL and Major League Soccer suspended their seasons. NCAA men's and women's basketball March Madness have been canceled. Golf's premier event, the Masters, has been postponed, as has the Boston Marathon.

The paradox of this latest turn of events is plain: As the country reels psychologically and economically from this galloping pandemic, a towering two-run homer from Anthony Rizzo or a Patrick Kane hat trick could take us a way, if for a moment, from plummeting stock markets and the rising tide of coronavirus cases.

But allowing large crowds to congregate will only make this crisis worse, and large crowds go hand in hand with major sporting events.

Of course, we can grope for surrogates. Those grainy ESPN Classic broadcasts showing Willie Stargell in his heyday or the forgotten magic of "Pistol" Pete Maravich may suffice for some. But there's no substitute for a sun-splashed afternoon at Wrigley Field, Vienna Beef hot dog in one hand, cold Budweiser in the other.

Have you ever stood on Heartbreak Hill, Mile 20 of the Boston Marathon, as the world's elite runners fly by like Ferraris, followed by thousands of heaving joggers, six miles to fulfilling a life's dream? There's nothing like it.

For now, the charge inside a stadium of cheering spectators—or watching from a comfy couch your beloved teams and athletes—will have to take a back seat to a priority much bigger than grand slams and game-winning jump shots. Coronavirus poses one of the most alarming health threats this nation has faced in decades. It requires common sense—and sacrifice, even for high school athletes whose schooling and sports programs have been suspended.

It's the right course to take for the health of the athletes, their parents and siblings, and for coaches and officials overseeing the action.

Sport has helped us through national crises before. Following Pearl Harbor, famed baseball Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis kept baseball going through World War II after President Franklin Roosevelt wrote him in what is now known as the "Green Light Letter."

"It would be best for the country to keep baseball going," Roosevelt wrote, adding that Americans "ought to have a chance for recreation and for taking their minds off their work even more than before."

This time, the world of sport can help by staying on the sidelines. Consider it a national timeout.

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How to help workers laid off in the coronavirus crisis

The coronavirus is first and foremost a public health crisis, requiring a public health response. It is also an economic problem, potentially a severe one.

With increasing numbers of people in quarantine, millions of Americans avoiding certain kinds of businesses, the canceling of large gatherings and investors obviously worried about the future, a coronavirus recession seems almost certain. Moreover, the historically high economic inequality that characterizes our economy has created fragilities that exacerbate any shocks to our society.

The most urgent economic and health priority for Congress is to ensure that sick workers are able to stay home without fear of losing their jobs or their paychecks. Millions of workers lack access to paid sick days. Yet new research shows that paid sick days can reduce the transmission of flu by 40%.

The workers least likely to have paid sick leave are low-income workers who may have a lot of contact with the public, such as deli workers and retail clerks, to name a few. If they're only "a little" sick, they might go to work because they can't afford not to, increasing the risk of infecting their fellow workers as well as customers. At the same time, they are also employed by businesses that are likely to feel the economic downturn immediately.

The most straightforward way to provide sick pay is for Congress to require that all employers provide it to their employees—and the program needs to be permanent so we're not scrambling the next time a catastrophe hits. This won't help gig workers, but Congress can—as House Democrats have proposed—offer emergency extended leave to those who need it, paid for by the federal government, which will cover everyone.

Beyond that, we need to take action to avoid or mitigate a painful recession. That job is made much harder by two factors that have nothing to do with coronavirus.

First, because of high economic inequality there is less money in the hands of the people who do most of the consuming; a recession weakens consumption even more, with potentially disastrous results. We know from past experience that President Trump's proposal for a payroll tax cut would not be spent as quickly as other ways of getting money to people—and certainly won't help those thrown out of work.

Second, the Federal Reserve has traditionally played an outsize role combating recessions, but now has a limited toolbox, one that is largely designed to support financial market liquidity

By **HEATHER BOUSHEY**

Los Angeles Times

Heather Boushey is president of the Washington Center for Equitable Growth and author of *Unbound: How Inequality Constricts Our Economy and What We Can Do About It*.



and lower interest rates, both of which it's already used amid the current market meltdown to little effect. During the last recession, which began in December 2007, the interest rate was lowered to just above zero. Over the course of the most recent recovery, policymakers were able to raise the rate to just under 2.5%, and that is now again edging toward zero. Further lowering of interest rates isn't a path available at this point.

With limited options for monetary policy, we have to rely on fiscal policy—spending and tax policies that can shore up depressed demand so that customers have money to spend and manufacturers have buyers for their products. Truth is, we should have been relying more on fiscal policy in prior recessions, too. When a recession is likely, we need to get money directly and quickly into the hands of people lower on the income ladder and we need to make sure those programs are calibrated to ramp up quickly as the recession begins.

Countless people are being laid off—think of the food service workers furloughed from college campuses closed down because of the coronavirus. A first step is to ensure that the Unemployment Insurance system covers all those who need it. With states having made cutbacks in recent years, this will require an infusion of federal funds. Further, Congress should make it easier for people to access the system so that those out of work have some financial security.

We also need to expand the nation's nutrition assistance program. Especially with schools closing, state and federal agencies need to make the process for getting supplemental nutrition simpler and faster.

In the last two recessions, Congress and the White House sent

See HOW on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

With unease, Americans lurch into coronavirus era

So this is where we are:

Major League Baseball's opening day postponed. Broadway and Hollywood grinding to a halt, and March Madness canceled. Universities from Harvard to UCLA telling students to stay away. Most travelers from Europe banned. Tom Hanks, Hollywood's embodiment of everyday American-ness, in isolation in an Australian hospital with the virus. And the speaker of the House of Representatives taking this question Thursday morning: "How prepared is Congress to work from home?"

This, in mid-March 2020, is now the very abnormal normal in the new United States of Purell — a nation that watched for weeks as the coronavirus erupted in China, South Korea, Iran and Italy before starting down the path of figuring out how to encounter this threat itself.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, something tipped. Words and phrases used intermittently in recent days began coming at Americans in a dizzying fusillade: Canceled. Postponed. Scrapped. Stay home. Don't come in. Don't embrace. Don't shake hands. Social distancing. Unprecedented. Crisis.

"I think it's finally sinking in how serious this is, and how incredibly unprepared we are going into this. And people are scrambling," says Dr. Mical Raz, a medical historian and practicing physician who teaches at the University of Rochester.

Which raises the central, delicate question: Are Americans ready to meet this challenge — a challenge distinct from any other that American society has faced in the last few generations?

"You find out who you are when a crisis hits, what the culture and the character is. It's the wizard behind the curtain," says Hilary Fussell Sisco, an associate professor at Quinnipiac University who studies how people communicate in troubled moments.

President Donald Trump, in his Oval Office address Wednesday night, called the unfolding coronavirus saga "just a temporary moment of time that we will overcome together as a nation and as a world." The coach of the Denver Nuggets, Michael

Malone, after learning an NBA player had been affected, had this to say: "These are things you watch in movies."

Trouble is, though, this whole thing isn't really either a moment or remotely movie-like — which is precisely what makes it more challenging for a country accustomed to consuming, and reacting to, "moments."

When 9/11 happened, it came with most of the markers that a society raised on Hollywood and Madison Avenue storytelling would find familiar. It happened in a certain place, over a specific and compressed period of time. Its scope was obvious by looking at it. And there were immediate villains to rightfully blame.

Many modern American cataclysms — from Pearl Harbor to the assassinations of the 1960s, from school shootings to space shuttle explosions to severe weather — have unfolded thusly. We know what to fear, what to be angry at, what to mourn — and, generally, we know how to do it.

It's different this time. It has been diffuse, unfolding over continents and weeks, making it easier for Americans to tune out.

It's a crisis playing out in microdecisions. Do we go to the store? Keep the kids home? Wash our hands after this, after that, or both? Tiny decisions by the dozen begin with the rising sun and extend all the way to bedtime, producing disruption of routines, exhaustion and unease.

And on top of it all, the coronavirus in the United States is producing what is known in management circles as a "wicked problem" — one in which people disagree not only about solutions, but about whether the thing is even a problem in the first place.

"Everyone was sure that 9/11 was a crisis, that Superstorm Sandy was a crisis. Everyone isn't sure that this is a crisis yet," says Eric Martin, who teaches management at Bucknell University and studies disaster responses.

Overlay the almost unprecedented polarization of this moment in the republic, and you have circumstances unthinkable even three weeks ago: people of all political temperaments, facing the same revisions to daily life, the same risks, the same pos-

By **TED ANTHONY**

The Associated Press



Ted Anthony, director of digital innovation for The Associated Press, has written about American culture since 1990. Follow him on Twitter at @anthonyted.

sibility of having to rely on each other to solve a global problem gone national and now fast going local.

Not that illness isn't divisive. "Epidemics have always been politicized. Ask any gay man who was alive in the '80s," says Raz. But in a context where you might be protecting yourself from your next-door neighbor, even if you live in a gated community, who to trust? Who to blame?

This is where the reaction of the past three days comes in. Whether reasons of risk management, compassion or common sense, institutions — universities, state governments, conference venues, sports leagues — are making decisions in anticipation rather than in reaction.

Because of that, the world we knew is inching toward being one that we don't. Trump's address and the measures he took suggested he was starting to see that, too.

There's something to all those cancellations and social distancing, something that's not entirely clear quite yet. It goes something like this: What's frightening — the strange, unsettling measures the country is starting to take — also can be reassuring.

The sense that American life is zipping itself up, going into hibernation, is terrifying, but it indicates action and engagement, too. The dwindling survivors of World War II-era America could tell you that: Sometimes the symptoms of resolve — the rationing of rubber and nylon and gas, the air-raid drills in the middle of the night — can masquerade as chaos. Sometimes, as with a vaccine, the prevention looks a little like the problem.

So this is where we are in mid-March 2020. But where will we be in mid-April, in mid-June, in mid-October? Will hand sanitizer be part of our life evermore? Will "gone viral" finally fade as an internet euphemism? Will we accept any restrictions on moment-to-moment freedom in order to free ourselves from the coronavirus?

"Who are we after this? Who are we after dealing with this situation that we've never dealt with before?" wonders Fussell Sisco, the crisis-communications expert.

In a way, that's part of the answer to whether American society can meet this moment and prevail. How we react now to events hurtling at us is staggeringly, unbelievably important. Who we become afterward? That page is blank, until we choose to fill it in.

Woke-era pandemic

The coronavirus outbreak is the first pandemic of the woke era, and as such it's not surprising that there is a fierce debate over how to refer to it without offending against social justice.

Republican Rep. Paul Gosar of Arizona lost whatever sympathy he would have garnered in certain quarters over his self-quarantine when he referred to "the Wuhan virus," a perfectly appropriate name that has been deemed grotesque and unacceptable.

Wuhan is in China, a non-Western country, and people of color live there, so Q.E.D., calling the virus by the name of that city must be racist.

Luminaries across the left denounced Gosar. They even accused him of bringing what is technically the SARS-CoV-2 virus to our shores by misnaming it. Democratic Rep. Ted Lieu of California slammed the Republican's reference to the Wuhan virus as "an example of the myopia that allowed it to spread in the U.S. The virus is not constrained by country or race."

Nonetheless, the virus first became known in Wuhan, and the locked-down city has remained the epicenter of the Chinese epidemic ever since. As of mid-February, the Wuhan area accounted for 86% of all cases in China.

Naming a virus after the location of the outbreak that first brought it to attention is not unusual.

The West Nile virus emerged in the West Nile district of Northern Uganda in the 1930s. It is similar to the St. Louis encephalitis virus, which broke out around St. Louis, Missouri, in 1933, and the Japanese encephalitis virus that began in the 1870s.

Coxsackie in New York state, Marburg in Germany and Hendra in Australia all have viruses named after them. MERS, caused by a virus first identified in 2012, stands for Middle East respiratory syndrome, or even more offensively, the camel flu.

No one had a fainting fit over any of this, but we live in a more sensitive, and absurd, time.

The WHO issued guidelines a couple of years ago warning

By **RICH LOWRY**

King Features Synd., Inc.



Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

against naming diseases after geographic locations, or animals (swine flu, bird flu, monkey pox) or membership organizations or occupations (Legionnaires' disease). With regard to the latest outbreak, the WHO has warned that "certain words and language may have a negative meaning for people and fuel stigmatizing attitudes."

There is no doubt that a raging virus that got its start in China, has shut down all of Italy, and caused disruption and fear around the world may create negative associations around China. This would happen, though, regardless of the name.

Such international contention over the name of a virus or disease isn't new. Syphilis was the Neapolitan disease, the French disease or the Polish disease, depending on who was naming it. The 1918 influenza came to be known as "the Spanish flu," although Spaniards called it "the French flu."

There was no good reason for naming the flu after the Spanish, though. The case of China is different. Its government tried to suppress warnings about the new coronavirus and looked the other way, giving it the room to become a national and then a global crisis.

It deserves to be connected to the virus it did more than its share to loose on the world, no matter what its foreign ministry or the sensitivity police say.

HOW

From Page 10

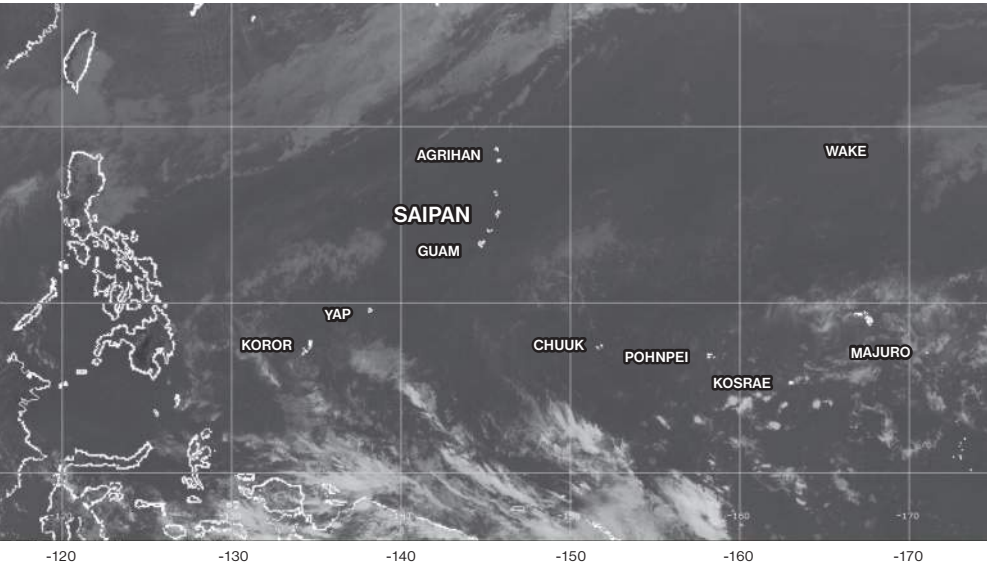
direct payments to everyone in 2001 and 2008. We should plan to do this again and we should implement an automatic trigger so that these payments happen so long as the economy remains in a recession.

The front line of the recession happens in the states. And, this time, it's not just state budgets but state health care systems that are or will soon be stressed. To avoid having cash-strapped states cutting their health budgets, Congress should put in place a plan to increase the federal matching subsidies for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. Here, too, there could be a trigger that raises federal support during the economic downturn but then falls back as the economy improves.

Economic research over the past decade has shown us what policies can work to mitigate a recession. A vaccine for COVID-19 won't be ready for at least a year. We need to put in place emergency measures to get money to millions who will soon have trouble paying rent and buying food. Congress and the president need to act now, as we confront a devastating threat to our economy.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers. east winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly sunny with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
87°	76°	86°	75°	87°	76°	87°	76°	87°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:47 AM, SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Dry season trade-wind regime remains firmly anchored over the Mariana Islands this morning. An area of enhanced cloudiness is seen between 147E and 154E. This will likely make the skies mostly cloudy, and shower activity could move up one notch. Inherited forecast had this fairly well covered so no major changes were needed. After this minor disturbance, it will be back to dry trades for the Marianas. Combined seas are at 5 to 6 feet right now. They are expected to edge up slightly, reaching 6 to 8 feet around Monday. No advisories are expected at this time.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Showers	86° / 76°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Windy	85° / 80°	
Kosrae	Windy	85° / 80°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	64° / 61°	
Beijing	Sunny	68° / 39°	
Hong Kong	Cloudy	75° / 68°	
Honolulu	Showers	75° / 69°	
London	Partly Cloudy	52° / 39°	
Los Angeles	Showers	60° / 48°	
Manila	Mostly Sunny	90° / 75°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	79° / 63°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	80° / 73°	
New York	Mostly Sunny	43° / 38°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	55° / 48°	
Paris	Showers	55° / 37°	
Busan	Windy	57° / 43°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	66° / 45°	
Salem	Cloudy	68° / 55°	
San Francisco	Showers	53° / 43°	
Seoul	Showers	54° / 36°	
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	55° / 43°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	53° / 44°	

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:51 AM	LOW TIDE	1.56	
7:06 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.08	
12:12 PM	LOW TIDE	1.68	
7:53 PM	HIGH TIDE	-0.04	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:24 AM	6:27 PM
Tuesday	6:23 AM	6:27 PM
Wednesday	6:22 AM	6:27 PM
Thursday	6:21 AM	6:27 PM
Friday	6:21 AM	6:27 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:04 AM	11:39 AM	-
Tuesday	1:02 AM	12:32 PM	-
Wednesday	1:57 AM	1:26 PM	-
Thursday	2:48 AM	2:20 PM	-
Friday	3:36 AM	3:12 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2020									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily		UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily	
UA156	6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6		UA112	4:45pm	5:26pm	2, 4, 6	
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)					NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
SKY816	4:35pm	7:30pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7		SKY811	10:15am	3:00pm	Daily	
SKY816	5:05pm	8:00pm	6						
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)					BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
7C3451	3:20am	6:30am	Daily		7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	
					7C3452	10:05pm	2:30am+1	3	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)					SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
TW308	2:05am	6:05am	1, 5		OZ6233	7:30am	12:50pm	4, 6	
7C3403	4:35am	8:35am	Daily		OZ625	8:10am	1:40pm	1, 5, 7	
OZ6243	3:10pm	7:00pm	4, 6		7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily	
OZ624	3:30pm	9:10pm	1, 5, 7		TW307	7:45pm	1:05am+1	4, 7	
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily		7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM		UA189/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM	
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR		OZ703/6233	7:20pm	12:50pm+1	3, 5 via ICN	
OZ6243/704	3:10pm	5:00am+1	4, 6 via ICN		UA192/174	10:40pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	
UA156/183	6:20pm	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via GUM		UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
UA156/193	6:20pm	11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR						

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
				2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
				2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
				2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Nominees announced for 2020 Businesswoman of the Year

BARRIGADA HEIGHTS, Guam—Guam Business Magazine is pleased to announce the nominees for the 2020 Businesswoman of the Year award.

The nominees are:

■ **Susan M. Biolcino**, president, Graphic Center Inc.

■ **Tes Reyes Burrier**, food and beverage director, Lotte Hotel Guam

■ **Wendi S. Herring**, general manager, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan

■ **Marie N. Guerrero**, CEO, B&G Pacific LLC, which does business as Three Squares Monica L. Pido, chief operating officer, Coast360 Federal Credit Union

The award will be presented to one winner at the Businesswoman of the Year gala on April 25 at the Hyatt Regency Guam in conjunction with the release of the Guam Business Magazine May-June issue, which will feature a commissioned photo of the recipient on its cover.

In its 15th year, the award program recognizes businesswomen in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands who have made significant contributions to their industries and have demonstrated a strong commitment to their community.

Through proceeds from the gala, the program also funds

scholarships for students pursuing business and related degrees at the University of Guam, Guam Community College and Northern Marianas College.

Tickets for the gala may be purchased by contacting ShaiAnna Palacios at office@glimpsesofguam.com or at (671) 649-0883 ext. 252 or (671) 988-4907.

The winner will join the previous Businesswoman of the

Year award recipients, who are as follows: Jessica M. Barrett, president of Barrett Enterprises Inc (2019); Mary Grace D. Jacot, president and CEO, SET Pacific Inc. (2018); Ramona L. Jones, CEO, Jones & Guerrero Co. Inc. (2017); Sophia Chu Wigsten, general manager, Hyatt Regency Guam (2016); Joann G. Camacho, director of market development, DFS Guam (2015);

Shirley Ann T. Sablan, executive vice president and general manager, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc. (2014); F. Marie Calvo-Monge, chief operating officer and executive producer, Pacific Telestations Inc., which does business as KUAM (2013); Mary P. Rhodes, president, Guam Hotel & Restaurant Association and president, MARQ Consulting Services (2012);

Joyce Quinata Crisostomo, executive director, Cars Plus and president, Payless Car Rental (2011); Anna Wang Kao, founder and president, Genghis Khan Furniture Co. (2010); Lorraine S. Okada, president and owner, Managing Consulting Services (2009); Julianne Rose Perez Duenas, physical therapist, owner and clinical director, Sports, Orthopedic and

Active Rehabilitation Inc. (2008); Christine Won Pat Baletto, general manager, Market Wholesale Distributors (2007); and Katherine R. Calvo, executive vice president and chairwoman of the board, Pay-Less Markets Inc. (2006).

For more information, contact Morgan Legel, editorial coordinator, Guam Business Magazine at (671) 649-0883 ext. 128. (PR)

Virus-related shutdowns bringing US economy to grinding halt

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—It took 15 minutes for the coronavirus to wreck Shelley Hutchings' carefully calculated financial plans.

Hutchings, a bartender and performer, had lined up gigs in advance of the South by Southwest film, music and technology festival, which draws hundreds of thousands of visitors to Austin each year. She'd expected to earn about \$3,000—enough to pay her taxes and buy a new sewing machine for a tailoring business she runs.

Relaxed, she sat down to watch a movie. Then her phone started vibrating. Cancellations rolled in. One by one, the jobs she's been counting on were gone. In the face of the spreading coronavirus outbreak, Austin officials had called off the festival just as the first attendees had begun to arrive.

"In 15 minutes, things fell apart," Hutchings said. "To watch it vanish, all at once, was shocking."

As Hutchings and hundreds of millions of Americans can attest, damage from the coronavirus has pummeled the U.S. economy with breathtaking speed and force. Hour by hour, day by day, the activities that households take part in and spend money on—plane trips, sporting events, movies, concerts, restaurant meals,

shopping trips for clothes, furniture, appliances—are grinding to a halt. And so, it seems, is the U.S. economy. Just a month ago, experts had expected any severe economic pain from the outbreak to be confined mainly to Asia and Europe. The U.S. economy, enjoying a record-breaking 11-year-long expansion, would likely keep cruising, it was thought—a bit bruised but not seriously damaged.

Now, forecasters can't downgrade their outlook for the American economy fast enough.

"The expansion is under threat," said Philipp Carlsson-Szlezak, chief economist at the Boston Consulting Group. "There's a very plausible risk this will amount to a recession."

On Wednesday, Wells Fargo Securities had predicted a slight drop in the nation's gross domestic product—the broadest measure of economic



AP
This March 12, 2016 file photo shows flyers advertising comedy on a light pole on Sixth Street during South By Southwest in Austin, Texas.

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On Wednesday, Wells Fargo Securities had predicted a slight drop in the nation's gross domestic product—the broadest measure of economic

output—in the April-June quarter. The next day, as the American stock market endured its deepest plunge since 1987, Wells Fargo economist Jay Bryson wrote that it was "painfully obvious that we need to rethink this forecast" and further downgrade the outlook.

SquareFoot's employees also can't all be home-bound. The firm, which helps companies find office space, told its brokers to continue giving property tours to clients who want them.

SquareFoot Finance Director Lindsay Garfield, who spent two weeks stocking up on food, said she is relieved to be avoiding the subway. But she frets about the company's bottom line if clients stop going on property tours. One has already put off a search for space in New York City because of trouble getting on flights.

Umagat is Bank of Guam's newest Certified Corporate Trust Professional

HAGATNA, Guam—The board of directors, management, and staff of the Bank of Guam are pleased to announce that Vittoria C. Umagat has earned the Certified Corporate Trust



Umagat

Professional Designation. With the Bank of Guam since 2015, Umagat joined the Trust Department in 2015 and earned Accredited Fiduciary Investment Manager Designation in 2018.

A graduate of the Academy of Our Lady of Guam, Umagat graduated from the University of Guam in 2015 with majors in Finance and Economics.

For additional information, contact Jackie Marati at (671) 472-5258. (PR)

Employers navigate virus pandemic without firm guidelines

NEW YORK (AP)—It started with extra hand sanitizer and wipes for keyboards and headphones. Then came the directive for employees to lug their laptops home every night just in case. Finally, the memo arrived urging all employees to work from home—just not in their pajamas.

The scene at New York real estate firm SquareFoot is playing repeatedly across the U.S. as workplaces make a mass shift toward allowing employees who can work remotely in a bid to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

With no firm federal or local guidance on when or how to act, employers are weighing how far to take their own disruptive emergency measures as communities from New York to California shut down around them. And the millions who can't work from home face uncertainty as their workplaces see a business drop or shut down completely, from museums and concert halls to Disneyland.

Even for companies that employ mostly office workers, the sudden change is complicated. Not all client meetings

can shift to phone or video. Employees lack laptops, security passwords or even the right ergonomic chair. Companies—and employees—are worried about a drop-off in productivity.

"Please do not treat this as a vacation," SquareFoot's managers said in a memo, encouraging employees to change their clothes, sit at a table and get into "a routine that gets you into the mindset of work."

Many companies have a mix of employees who can easily do their jobs remotely and others who can't.

Amazon—among other big tech companies—told much of its office staff to work from home, but workers who pick, pack and ship orders are still reporting to warehouses with extra hand sanitizers on the walls.

J.P. Morgan Chase has sent traders to back-up sites in New Jersey and Brooklyn because they require specialized work stations. The investment bank has split its New York-area employees into groups that will take turns working from home starting Friday, but employees at bank branches are expected on-site.

SquareFoot's employees also can't all be home-bound. The firm, which helps companies find office space, told its brokers to continue giving property tours to clients who want them.

SquareFoot Finance Director Lindsay Garfield, who spent two weeks stocking up on food, said she is relieved to be avoiding the subway. But she frets about the company's bottom line if clients stop going on property tours. One has already put off a search for space in New York City because of trouble getting on flights.

Nation

Americans brace for new life of no school and growing dread

By GILLIAN FLACCUS and JOCELYN GECKER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Millions of Americans braced for the week ahead with no school for their children for many days to come, no clue how to effectively do their jobs without child care, and a growing sense of dread about how to stay safe and sane amid the relentless spread of the coronavirus.

Are play dates for the kids OK? How do you stock up on supplies when supermarket

shelves are bare? How do you pay the bills when your work hours have been cut? Is it safe to go to the gym? And how do you plan for the future with no idea what it holds?

"Today looks so different from yesterday, and you just don't know what tomorrow is going to look like," said Christie Bauer, a family photographer and mother of three school-age children in West Linn, Oregon.

Tens of millions of students nationwide have been sent home from school amid a

wave of closings that include all of Ohio, Maryland, Oregon, Washington state, Florida and Illinois along with big-city districts like Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington, D.C. Some schools announced they will close for three weeks, others for up to six.

The disruptions came as government and hospital leaders took new measures to contain an outbreak that has sickened more than 150,000 people worldwide and killed about 5,800, with thousands of new cases being confirmed

every day.

As the U.S. death toll climbed to 51 on Saturday and infections totaled more than 2,100, President Donald Trump expanded a ban on travel to the U.S. from Europe, adding Britain and Ireland to the list, and hospitals worked to expand bed capacity and staffing to keep from becoming overwhelmed as the case-load mounts.

"We have not reached our peak," said Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health. "We will see more

cases, and we will see more suffering and death."

Many working parents are scrambling to find child care, even if they are being allowed to work from home. The child care needs are especially dire for the legions of nurses, hospital and health care workers across the country who need to be on the job to deal with the crisis.

Governors drew up emergency plans to find child care for front-line medical workers and first responders, equating it to a wartime effort.

"I would put this as a World War II-capacity day-care for our public health workers because we're going to need every single body we can get," said Oregon Gov. Kate Brown.

Parents desperate to get to work with schools closed have jumped on social media boards to seek child care or to exchange tips about available babysitters.

Seattle resident John Persak set up a Facebook group last week for parents with children at home because of school closings. The group exploded to nearly 3,000 members.

"We're getting about five requests a minute at this point," said Persak, a father and crane operator at the port of Seattle, who said his work hours have been curtailed for weeks by the coronavirus outbreak, which is affecting cargo deliveries from Asia.

In Maryland, where schools will be closing from Monday through March 27, parents are calling up their kids' former nannies and babysitters.

"They are desperate," said Ellen Olsen, who has been a nanny for more than 11 years and co-manages a Facebook group that connects parents, nannies and sitters in Maryland. "We've seen a lot of parents posting, 'Hey, schools are closed, but I still have to work.'"



A line of people waiting to buy supplies amid coronavirus fears snakes through a parking lot at a Costco, Saturday, March 14, 2020, in Las Vegas. AP

Trump's latest travel ban highlights gaps in containment net

NEW YORK (AP)—In the weeks before President Donald Trump spoke from the Oval Office to announce restrictions on travelers from more than two dozen countries in Europe, thousands of people from the region already had stepped off planes at U.S. airports, and an untold number of them carried the coronavirus.

The same can be said of flights from China in the weeks before the U.S. clamped down on those. Thousands who visited the country where the illness began had entered the United States without any kind of health review.

Such sobering realities highlight just one element of the federal government's shortcomings in getting ahead of the virus and halting its spread from overseas travelers.

A day-by-day review of the spread of an unfamiliar virus from its earliest days shows U.S. officials have often been

slow to respond or steps behind, with critical gaps in containment measures such as travel restrictions and airport screenings that allowed the crisis to grow to more than 2,100 infections and 51 deaths.

"There have been gaps in the way the U.S. has approached its response, which has not been comprehensive enough to contain the virus at the early stages of the epidemic," said Josh Michaud, associate director of global health policy with the Kaiser Family Foundation in Washington.

That was evident from the very beginning of the coronavirus outbreak in the U.S. On Jan. 15, a 35-year-old man returned home to Washington state through the Seattle airport after traveling to Wuhan, China, where the virus was already spreading. He would become the nation's first known case. Shortly before, on Jan. 13, a woman in her 60s arrived

home through the Chicago airport after traveling to Wuhan. She would be Chicago's first known case.

Both of those travelers came to U.S. days before the federal government began screenings for passengers who traveled through Wuhan at three U.S. international airports, New York's Kennedy, San Francisco and Los Angeles. That list was expanded on Jan. 21 to include hubs in Chicago and Atlanta. Seattle-Tacoma wouldn't be added to the list until Jan. 28.

Also, there's no guarantee those screenings—which involved passengers filling out health forms and having their temperatures taken—would have caught those early patients, who didn't report symptoms until later. U.S. researchers say screenings may miss half of COVID-19 infected people, since they may not develop symptoms

for several days.

By Jan. 24, both the Chicago woman and Washington state man had sought medical care after feeling sick, and tests confirmed they had the virus. Learning of the two early cases, public health workers scrambled to reach hundreds of people who may have been exposed to them on flights and on the ground, knowing they wouldn't be able to find them all with certainty.

With infections in Wuhan multiplying at an alarming rate, the White House announced on Jan. 31 that non-residents who had recently been to mainland China would no longer be allowed entry.

Americans returning from the Wuhan region would be subject to a mandatory two-week quarantine. In Boston, a man who would become the city's first case had returned after traveling to Wuhan just days earlier.

US: Immigrants can seek coronavirus care without fear

PHOENIX (AP)—The U.S. government says a new rule disqualifying more people from green cards if they use government benefits will not apply to immigrants with coronavirus or virus symptoms if they seek care.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services said late Friday that seeking treatment or preventive services won't affect someone's immigration status under the new, highly criticized public charge rule, which took effect last month and which punishes immigrants who need public assistance.

The agency acknowledged that some immigrants may fear seeking care in the wake of the virus, saying that it "will neither consider testing, treatment, nor preventative care" related to the virus in determining someone's eligibility for permanent residency. It said that those who can't work or attend school and must rely on public benefits during the duration of the virus outbreak and recovery can later explain and provide documentation and that it will be taken into consideration.

The announcement came after lawmakers and advocacy groups urged the government to suspend the rule during the coronavirus outbreak. Advocates say they have been fielding panicked calls from immigrants who

are worried about the impact on their status if they seek health care.

Angelica Salas, executive director of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights in Los Angeles, said her group and others held a news conference urging immigrants to seek care if needed and reminding them that their health, and the health of their families, is most important.

"People are wondering about their vulnerability both in terms of disease but their vulnerability in terms of immigration status, in terms of being discovered," she said.

Salas said she doesn't fully trust the Trump administration but feels confident that state, county and local authorities will support immigrants who come forward to seek the health care they need, regardless of their immigration status.

Advocates have long derided the public charge rule, which punishes immigrants who are in the country legally and who are allowed to access some benefits, such as food stamps, for their American-born children.

As the coronavirus began to spread more widely in the U.S., supporters and lawmakers cautioned it could be detrimental to public health if some immigrants were too afraid to seek care.

Asia

Thousands of police seal PH capital to fight virus

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Thousands of police in the Philippines, backed by the army and coast guard, started sealing the densely populated capital from most domestic travelers Sunday in one of Southeast Asia's most drastic containment moves against the new coronavirus.

Mayors also announced plans to impose a night curfew in Metropolitan Manila, home to more than 12 million people. Residents have been asked to stay home except for work and urgent errands under monthlong restrictions that took effect Sunday.

The citywide quarantine means the suspension of domestic travel by land, air and sea to and from the capital region. Large gatherings like concerts, movies and cock-fighting will be prohibited and most government work in executive department offices will be suspended in the metropolis. School closures at all levels were extended by a month.

President Rodrigo Duterte announced what he billed a "general community quarantine" of the entire metropolis on Thursday. Officials issued guidelines on Saturday after confusion over the drastic moves set off panic buying in supermarkets and prompted many provincial residents to stream out of the metropolis, fearing they would be stranded in the capital.

Officials said the temporary restrictions will not amount to a lockdown of the capital because many workers and emergency personnel like medical staff will be able to enter and leave the capital. Residents can move within the metropolis on their way to



AP
A policeman stands at a checkpoint in Quezon city, metropolitan Manila, Philippines early Sunday March 15, 2020.

work or for urgent errands, including medical emergencies, officials said.

Movement of cargo and food shipments will continue unhampered, they said.

Nevertheless, by early Sunday truckloads of policemen and soldiers spread to the peripheries of the metropolis and started to man checkpoints on major entry and exit points. The coast guard announced a no-sail policy in Manila Bay but said cargo ships, fishing boats, government vessels and some foreign ships were exempted from the ban.

A copy of the guidelines said the movement of people in the Manila metropolis

"shall be limited to accessing basic necessities and work."

"If you'll go to work, go. If you need to go out for medical treatment, go. If you'll buy food, go, but other than that, stay home," Interior Secretary Eduardo Ano told a news conference on Saturday. "We should practice social distancing."

Philippine health officials reported dozens of new cases infections Saturday, bringing the total number of COVID-19 cases in the country to 111. Eight of the patients have died.

While the virus can be deadly, particularly for the elderly and people with other health problems, for most people it causes only mild or moderate

symptoms, such as fever and cough. Some feel no symptoms at all and the vast majority of people recover.

Ano said the 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew, which was proposed by 17 mayors, would apply to nonessential trips and leisure gatherings like parties, family reunions and concerts. Stressing the ur-

gency of the move, he cited the case of Italy, where he said the numbers of COVID-19 infections and deaths alarmingly spiked because effective containment steps were not put in place early.

Police Lt. Gen. Guillermo Eleazar said cities and towns would enforce the curfew once their separate councils

In role reversal, Asia seeks to stop virus from coming in

BEIJING (AP)—From quarantining travelers from overseas to nabbing those sneaking in with fevers, China and other parts of Asia are scrambling to prevent the new coronavirus from coming back to where it first broke out.

Just as the spread of the disease is stabilizing in much of Asia, following a major outbreak in China and sizable ones in South Korea and Japan, it is popping up in new hot spots around the world.

Those three countries announced expanded border controls this week that mimic many of the bans and restrictions placed on China in the early days of the outbreak. China, which didn't have enough protective equipment for its medical workers a few weeks ago, is now donating supplies to Italy, Iran, South Korea and other affected places.

The outbreak is far from over in Asia and could well explode again when restrictions put in place to stymie it are lifted. But the panic that seized the region has shifted to the Mideast, Europe and the

Americas as those areas deal with the rapid spread of the virus for the first time.

China reported Friday just eight new cases of the virus in the previous 24 hours, and three were imported from Italy, the United States and the United Kingdom. The number has dropped sharply from a month ago, when the daily figure was in the thousands. Nearly 90 imported cases have been identified in recent weeks.

National Health Commission spokesman Mi Feng said this week that the peak of outbreak has passed in China, but that "the fast development of the epidemic overseas has introduced uncertainties."

Just a week ago, South Korea was complaining about a global scurry to block or restrict visitors coming from the country. Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha, in a rare moment of bluntness, called the moves an unsophisticated reaction by nations with inept quarantine abilities.

Now, as new infections have eased at home, South

Korea is stepping up border controls to prevent the virus from being reintroduced by travelers from overseas.

Starting Sunday, the country will extend special screening measures to passengers from France, Germany, Spain, Britain and the Netherlands, as well as those who have stopped in Dubai and Moscow in the previous two weeks.

Besides having their temperature checked and filling out health questionnaires, they will download a smartphone app to report their health status daily to authorities. The screening already applied to visitors from mainland China, Hong Kong, Macao, Japan, Italy and Iran. South Korea also bans people coming from Hubei, the province in China with by far the most infections and deaths.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. Some, especially older adults and those with existing health problems, develop more severe illnesses such as pneumonia.

Christchurch marks anniversary of mosque shootings

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (AP)—People in the New Zealand city of Christchurch honored the 51 worshipers who were killed in a mass shooting a year ago in small but poignant ways Sunday, after a planned national memorial event was canceled due to fears it might spread the new coronavirus.

Outside the Al Noor mosque, dozens of leather-clad bikers from the Tu Tangata club performed a traditional Maori haka. They were welcomed by mosque imam Gamal Fouda, who said people of all beliefs and cultures were stopping to pay their respects, and they were all united as New Zealanders.

One of those who survived

the shooting at the Linwood mosque was Mazharuddin Syed Ahmed, who said that marking anniversaries was not typically a Muslim tradition but they were doing it so the wider community could grieve and remember. He said the shootings had provoked an outpouring of love and compassion.

"Of course, we lost our loved friends, family, people and community," he said. "But we are also seeing so much good has come out of it. So looking at the positive part of that. Today, it is such a privilege to be in this country."

Temel Atacocugu, who survived after being shot nine times at the Al Noor mosque, said the anniversary had pro-

voked strong feelings.

"We are sad more than we are angry," he said. "It's very emotional. When I woke up this morning, I'm speechless. I can't explain what I feel."

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said Saturday the decision to cancel the memorial event planned for Horncastle Arena was pragmatic and precautionary.

New Zealand has had eight confirmed cases of COVID-19. All of those cases have been connected to people returning from abroad and so far there haven't been signs of a local outbreak. Ardern has enacted strict border rules in an attempt to prevent the disease from taking hold in New Zealand.

World

Iran death toll from virus passes 600, Syria shuts schools

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran said Saturday the coronavirus outbreak has killed another 97 people, pushing the death toll in the country to 611, as war-ravaged Syria announced a number of strict measures despite the government saying it has no confirmed cases.

Iran is suffering from the worst outbreak in the Middle East, with 12,729 cases and even senior officials testing positive. It is a close ally of the Syrian government in the civil war, with military advisers as well as Shiite pilgrims frequently traveling between the two countries.

There are concerns that the number of infections in Iran is much higher than the confirmed cases reported by the government, with some Iranian lawmakers having questioned the official toll.

It's also unclear if local hospitals are able to cope with the influx of new cases, with at least 2,500 new infections announced in just the last two days. State TV reported earlier this week that hospitals in some areas are overwhelmed. Authorities have vowed to set up mobile clinics, but have not provided figures on needs and capabilities.

The outbreak has not spared Iran's top officials, with its senior vice president, Cabinet ministers, members of parliament, Revolutionary Guard members and Health Ministry officials among those infected.

Iran has suspended schools and banned spectators from



Firefighters disinfect a street against the new coronavirus, in western Tehran, Iran, Friday, March 13, 2020.

AP

stadiums, but religious shrines remain open and the markets and streets are still crowded in the capital, Tehran, which has been hit hardest by the virus.

State TV said authorities would "soon" close the Masoume shrine in the holy city of Qom, the epicenter of the country's outbreak, without giving a timeline. Iran has already applied some restrictions at the popular pilgrimage site, including forbidding the

traditional practice of touching and kissing the metal grating.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

The vast majority of people recover from the new virus in a matter of weeks, but the outbreak has caused more than

5,000 deaths worldwide. The virus is highly contagious, and even those showing no symptoms can spread it, making large gatherings particularly risky. A number of major sporting events, conferences and other gatherings have been cancelled across the globe.

The Syrian government announced a series of precautionary measures, including closing schools and universities until April 2.

Following a Cabinet meeting Friday evening, the government also said it was canceling all cultural and sporting

events, and all other large gatherings, for the time being.

Syria also says it has taken preventive measures at all ports and border crossings. It has suspended travel with neighboring Iraq and Jordan, and it has halted religious tourism for a month.

Even in the tenth year of its devastating civil war, Syria had continued to receive large numbers of pilgrims from Iran, Iraq and neighboring Lebanon. They particularly visit the shrine of Sayida Zaynab, the prophet Muhammad's granddaughter, in a suburb of the capital, Damascus. The shrine

Canada shuts Parliament, Trudeau in quarantine, no travel

TORONTO (AP)—Canada shut down Parliament and advised against all nonessential travel outside the country Friday while Prime Minister Justin Trudeau governed remotely from his home, in self-imposed quarantine after his wife tested positive for the new coronavirus.

Dr. Theresa Tam, the chief public health officer, also advised more social distancing, no handshakes and kisses, while the Canadian government advised cancelling large events like concerts and Transport Minister Marc Garneau said cruise ships with more than 500 people will not be able to dock in Canada until July 1.

Overseas flights returning to Canada will also be restricted to a small number of airports.

Canada's House of Commons voted to shut down for at least five weeks to help ensure lawmakers do not contribute

to the spread of the virus.

The moves came a day after Trudeau's wife tested positive. The prime minister himself has been in self-imposed quarantine.

"I will remain in self isolation for 14 days. I want to be clear. I have no symptoms and I feel very well," Trudeau said at a news conference outside his residence in Ottawa.

"Technology allows me to work from home."

All parties in Parliament agreed to the suspension, which means lawmakers will miss two weeks of sessions since they had previously planned to be away next week and two weeks in April. The House is scheduled to next meet on Monday, April 20.

"This just shows you how seriously our government and members of the house are taking this," Government House leader Pablo Rodriguez said.

itself remained open, and health officials were checking pilgrims' temperatures before allowing them entry.

Other countries across the Middle East are scrambling to contain the outbreak.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced Saturday that restaurants and places of entertainment would be closed and said everyone should work from home unless absolutely necessary. But he stopped short of declaring a total lock down, saying essential services would continue and grocery stores would remain open.

Israel imposed sweeping travel restrictions and quarantine measures more than a week ago, but its confirmed cases have almost doubled in the last two days, to nearly 200.

The United Arab Emirates, a major global travel hub, suspended the issuing of visas to all foreigners except diplomats. It also suspended all flights to and from Lebanon, Syria, Turkey and Iraq.

Saudi Arabia said it would halt all flights to the kingdom for two weeks starting Sunday.

Qatar said it would bar entry to all visitors from Italy, France, Germany and Spain, where the number of new cases is on the rise, and require holders of residency permits to enter quarantine for 14 days.

It also suspended entry from Sudan, which reported its first case, a fatality, earlier this week. Sudan, whose infrastructure has been devastated by decades of war and sanctions, banned public gatherings and closed schools and universities for the next month.

Part of the deal for closing Parliament for five weeks was ratifying the new replacement for the North American Free Trade Agreement. Rodriguez said lawmakers have passed legislation to ratify the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, and the Senate was expected to follow suit later Friday.

The suspension of the House of Commons means the federal budget won't be presented March 30 as Finance Minister Bill Morneau had promised, but would come at a later date.

Trudeau was quarantining himself at home because his wife, Sophie Grégoire Trudeau, tested positive for the new coronavirus after returning from Britain. He said Friday his wife has mild flu-like symptoms but is doing fine. He said neither he nor their three children are showing symptoms.

Spain locks down its citizens, while France shuts nightlife

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—Spain locked down its 46 million citizens and France ordered the closing of just about everything the rest of the world loves about it—the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, the cafes and restaurants—as governments took increasingly desperate measures to put more space between people and contain the coronavirus.

More borders snapped shut around the globe on Saturday and Sunday: President Donald Trump announced that the U.S., which days ago barred travelers from most of Europe, will extend the ban to Britain and Ireland. In the Philippines, thousands of police and soldiers started sealing the densely populated capital from most domestic travelers in one of Southeast Asia's most drastic containment moves.

Meanwhile, China, where the virus first appeared late last year, continued to relax its drastic restrictions, illustrating the way the center of gravity in the crisis has shifted westward toward Europe. The virus has

infected more than 150,000 people worldwide and killed over 5,600.

In a nationally televised address Saturday, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez detailed the battery of exceptional measures put in place as part of a two-week state of emergency to fight the sharp rise in infections.

Later Saturday, Spain's government said Sánchez's wife has tested positive for coronavirus. Begoña Gómez and the prime minister are in good health, the government said.

Two ministers of Sánchez's Cabinet, the minister of equality and the minister of regional affairs, had already tested positive earlier this week. The others member of the Cabinet have tested negative.

In a lockdown similar to the one already imposed in Italy, people will be allowed to leave their homes only to buy food and medicine, commute to work, go to hospitals and banks, or take trips related to the care of the young and the elderly. All schools and uni-

versities were closed, along with restaurants, bars, hotels and other non-essential retail businesses.

"From now we enter into a new phase," Sánchez said after a Cabinet meeting that lasted over seven hours. "We won't hesitate in doing what we must to beat the virus. We are putting health first."

Spanish authorities said the number of infections climbed past 5,700, half of them in the capital, Madrid. That represents a national increase of over 1,500 in 24 hours. The country had 136 deaths, up from 120. Spain has the fifth-highest number of cases, behind China, Italy, Iran and South Korea.

For most people, the coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority of people recover in a matter of weeks.

Health & Wellness

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Towson University students remove their belongings out of the dorms as the school shut down days before the start of the scheduled spring break on March 11, 2020 in Towson, Maryland. Universities across the nation have closed through spring break as the novel Coronavirus spreads.

WHAT IS A PANDEMIC?

Does the coronavirus qualify?

By EMILY BAUMGAERTNER
LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

The coronavirus outbreak that originated in China has been considered a global health emergency for more than a month. Now, the World Health Organization says it's a "pandemic." Why?

Excellent question. Let's review some epidemiology basics to find out.

Think back to the town where you grew up, and the infections that made the rounds. An "endemic" level of disease—or a community's baseline prevalence of it—isn't always zero. Consider chicken pox in the United

States, or malaria in some African countries. Endemic disease certainly isn't preferable, but it's expected.

A sudden increase in the number of people with a particular disease in a limited area can signal the onset of an outbreak. So can the emergence of an unusual type of disease, such as a strain of the flu that's never been seen before.

If an outbreak expands to a broader population, it becomes an epidemic.

The WHO's decision to declare a "public health emergency of international concern" in early February wasn't arbitrary. The global health agency considers three factors when weighing that designation:

1 Is the outbreak unusual or unexpected? With a never-before-seen virus like the coronavirus that causes COVID-19, the answer was yes.

2 Does the outbreak have implications for health beyond a national border? When the emergency was declared, there were dozens of reported cases on four continents, so the answer was another yes.

3 Does the outbreak require immediate international action? Since airport screenings and aid money were needed to attempt to contain the virus' spread, the answer was once again yes.

But epidemics can be severe

without ever rising to the level of a pandemic, so long as they predominantly affect one region—in this case, China.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines a pandemic as one that has spread to several countries or continents, usually affecting a large number of people. The severity of illnesses is not a consideration, nor is the number of deaths.

With more than 125,000 confirmed cases on six continents, the term "pandemic" clearly applies.

"Diseases are not terribly good at respecting borders," said Alex Azar, secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The new coronavirus has demonstrated that it can spread readily between humans. That makes it more similar to influenza—a classic pandemic agent—than to other coronaviruses.

Beyond the case count, a pandemic contrasts with an epidemic because it has global consequences.

That's why Middle Eastern respiratory syndrome never became a pandemic. Since the coronavirus that causes MERS began circulating in humans in 2012, it has infected only about 2,500 people, mostly in and around the Arabian Peninsula.

On the other hand, severe acute respiratory syndrome earned pandemic status because it affected 26 countries. The coronavirus that causes SARS triggered ongoing chains of transmission not just in China, the epicenter, but also in Canada, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, and Vietnam.

The COVID-19 coronavirus could wind up following the path of the H1N1 swine flu, which caused a pandemic in 2009. That outbreak subsided in 2010, but the virus continues to circulate as one of the primary strains of the seasonal flu.

Sam Scheiner, a mathematical modeling expert for infectious diseases at the National Science Foundation, said that if the new coronavirus joins the list of seasonal respiratory viruses, it could ultimately lead to tens of thousands of deaths in the United States each year.

Coronavirus cleaning tips for your iPhone, Android

By ALISON BOWEN
CHICAGO TRIBUNE/TNS

Beyond our faces, what do we touch all the time? Our phones.

While the coronavirus most frequently spreads among close contacts via respiratory droplets and transmission to persons from contaminated surfaces has not been documented, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, health officials encourage cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces because the virus can remain viable for hours to days on a variety of materials.

This includes your phone.

Cleaning, the CDC specified, refers to the removal of germs, dirt and impurities, and it does not kill germs, but by removing them does lower the risk of spreading infection. Disinfecting, on the other hand, refers to using chemicals to kill germs.

The agency recommends using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

Regarding Apple products, the company issued recommendations for cleaning.

All products, according to Apple, can be gently cleaned with the a 70% isopropyl alcohol wipe or Clorox disinfecting wipe. Wipe the hard, nonporous surfaces, like the display, keyboard or other exterior surfaces.

The key to remember? Do not use bleach. And avoid getting moisture in any openings of the phone. Do not submerge the product in a cleaning product. Apple does note that excessive wiping could cause damage.

If you get liquid inside the phone, Apple recommends getting help from an authorized service provider or Apple store.

And don't forget about your iPhone case. Apple provides specific



While the coronavirus most frequently spreads among close contacts via respiratory droplets and transmission to persons from contaminated surfaces has not been documented, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, health officials encourage cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces because the virus can remain viable for hours to days on a variety of materials.

instructions for several types—silicone, leather, clear—but generally, remove the iPhone from the case and use a clean cloth to wipe the inside. Different cleaners can be used on different materials.

Sheila Leen, an advanced practice nurse at Rush University, pointed out that we take phones everywhere, including to the bathroom.

"At least toilet seats are usually receiving a regular cleaning," she said in an email.

Sanitize once a day, and clean it an extra time if dropped, placed on a public surface or coughed on. She suggested smartphone wipes, a damp and soft microfiber cloth with 60% water and 40% alcohol, or the product PhoneSoap that says it uses UV light to clean 99.9% of germs.

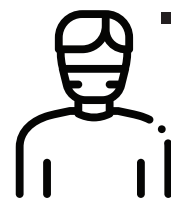
Wipe back and sides, she added, and remove from its case at least once a month to clean that too.

What to do if you are sick

Steps to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick.



■ **Call ahead:** If you have a medical appointment, call the healthcare provider and tell them that you have or may have COVID-19.



■ **If you are sick:** You should wear a facemask when you are around other people.

■ **Stay home:** Isolate at home during their illness. You should restrict activities outside your home, except for getting medical care.

■ **Stay away from others:** As much as possible, you should stay in a specific room and away from other people in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available.

■ **Cover:** Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.



■ **Dispose:** Throw used tissues in a lined trash can.

■ **Wash hands:** Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. And clean your hands often.

■ **Clean and disinfect:** Practice routine cleaning of high touch surfaces.



■ **Stay at home until instructed to leave:** The decision to discontinue home isolation precautions should be made on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with healthcare providers and state and local health departments.

Source: CDC

Graphic: Staff, TNS

Disney sends 'Frozen 2' to streaming for housebound families

Cirque du Soleil closes its Las Vegas shows because of virus

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Cirque du Soleil, creator of many of the most popular shows in Las Vegas, said Saturday that it is temporarily suspending its productions in Las Vegas as well as around the world because of the new coronavirus outbreak.

In a statement, the company said it made the decision based on public health authorities calling for people to limit their social interactions to stop the spread of the virus.

The shows that will be cancelled effective Sunday are "O" at the Bellagio, "KA" at MGM Grand,

"The Beatles LOVE" at the Mirage, "Mystere" at Treasure Island, "Zumanity" at New York-New York and "Michael Jackson ONE" at Mandalay Bay.

Cirque du Soleil shows in Austin, Texas, Chicago, Houston, New Orleans, Salt Lake City, Montreal, Boston, Tel Aviv, Meloneras, Spain, Munich, Costa Mesa, California, Denver, and the Australian cities of Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth also are cancelled.

Also Saturday, the long-running Penn & Teller comedy/magic show has been cancelled effective immediately.

Federal prosecutors in NYC add to R Kelly's legal woes

NEW YORK (AP)—Federal prosecutors hit R. Kelly with more criminal charges Friday, accusing the disgraced R&B singer of having unprotected sex with a girl in 2015 without disclosing he had herpes.

The new racketeering charges were included in a revised indictment filed in New York City a week after the 53-year-old Kelly pleaded not guilty to a separate updated federal indictment in Chicago involving child pornography, sexual exploitation of children and other allegations.

The court papers in New York allege that the "I Believe I Can Fly" singer arranged for the minor—referred to only as "Jane Doe #5"—to travel to

New York and other locations to have sex with him without informing her "he had contracted herpes and obtaining her consent to sexual intercourse in these circumstances."

A message was left with Kelly's attorney seeking comment. There was no arraignment date set for the new charges in federal court in Brooklyn.

The new charges further a string of dozens of other counts of state and federal sexual misconduct charges in Illinois, Minnesota and New York, from sexual assault to heading a racketeering scheme aimed at supplying Kelly with girls. He has denied ever abusing anyone.

NEW YORK (AP)—The Walt Disney Co. will release "Frozen 2" on Disney Plus several months early to give families cooped up by the coronavirus a welcome distraction—and give its streaming service a boost.

Disney announced Friday that "Frozen 2" will begin streaming on Disney Plus Sunday, three months earlier than expected. In some countries, including Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the

Netherlands, the movie will start streaming Tuesday.

Most upcoming new releases have been postponed due to the virus, including Disney's own lineup. "Mulan" had been set to hit theaters next week. Few March or April movies remain on the calendar. Some movie theaters have shuttered, though most are currently imposing new restrictions on audience crowding to help facilitate the social distancing recommended by health officials.

Disneyland visitors savor final day before closure for virus

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—The trip to Disneyland was a special vacation for a 4-year-old girl and her three cousins from Mexico—one that her parents couldn't wait to take. It was a short freeway drive for a pair of former high school sweethearts who headed over to the theme park whenever they could get a few hours away.

Both groups were among the thousands of visitors who crammed rides, treats and fun into the final rainy hours the self-proclaimed Happiest Place on Earth remained open before shutting for more than two weeks starting on Saturday to help slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Andrea Vizcarra, 39, said she understood the resort's decision to close and hoped it would help with the illness. But that doesn't make it easier on her family, who spent \$5,000 so a group of them could make the trip from Mexico City. They will get reimbursed for time missed in the theme park but not cost of airline tickets and hotels, where they are now cooped up with four young kids and little idea where to take them.

"We don't have anywhere



A visitor stands in the rain at Disneyland in Anaheim, Calif., Friday, March 13, 2020.

AP

to go," she said, hugging her daughter, who was dressed as Rapunzel. "We told them to make the most of today because there's not much left to do after that."

Disneyland fans normally can bank on the park being open regardless of what's going on in the world around it. The park closed only a handful of times in 65 years and never for more than a day, said Jason

Schultz, supervisory archivist at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum and unofficial Disneyland historian who wrote "Jason's Disneyland Almanac." The last closure was after the terror attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

A Disneyland spokesperson declined to comment about previous closures or the park's final day before it closed temporarily.

Walt Disney Co. announced the closure of Disneyland on Thursday, shortly after California Gov. Gavin Newsom's news conference on his executive order recommending against any "nonessential" gatherings of more than 250 people. Universal Studios Hollywood and other theme parks also announced closures. Florida's Disney World plans to shutter on Monday.

Woman ready for intimacy is not ready for pregnancy

DEAR ABBY: Two years ago, I had a miscarriage. The guy was nothing more than a fling. We were careful and never did anything without protection, but it happened anyway.

I have now been in a relationship with a really great guy for four months. I said I wanted to take it slow, and he has been very supportive, but we are both getting antsy to move to the next step of intimacy. My problem is, I can't seem to stop having anxiety attacks when I think about the possibility of getting pregnant again, even using two forms of birth control. Neither of us wants kids now or in the future. How do I get past this fear?

WORRIED IN WYOMING

DEAR WORRIED: A way to do that would be to talk to your doctor or pharmacist about what your options would be for using a long-term form of birth control such as a slow-release implant or an IUD.

If your state had a Planned Parenthood clinic nearby, I would normally recommend going there. However, when I checked online, I was shocked to discover there is no longer a clinic in your entire state, which means you may have to go as far as Colorado to find one.

DEAR ABBY: I am increasingly frustrated with a colleague's daily demeanor. She's a supervisor in my department, although I no longer report directly to her. But my office is

adjacent to hers, and I see her frequently.

Every day when she arrives, I greet her with my standard, "Good morning, how are you?" and she replies with a heavy sigh and some vague remark about how tired she is or some other general complaint. Even if I don't ask about her welfare, she will still offer the same negative remarks. She does this with other co-workers as well. Is there an effective response I can offer that would help her to reframe, or at least stop with the heavy martyrdom?

TIRED OF HEARING IT

DEAR TIRED: Because she constantly volunteers (with a heavy sigh) that she's "tired," consider pointing out that she has been saying this same thing for a long time and suggest she consult a doctor about it. The one thing you should definitely stop doing is personalizing it the way it appears you do.

DEAR ABBY: My husband, a successful attorney, and I are in our 50s and have been married 10 years. He is an educated man. The problem: He does not like to wash his hands.

I often ask him to please wash his hands when he exits the bathroom, but he refuses. He sees no problem with it. He also has no problem sticking his bare hands in the candy jar or any other dish with food in it. Not only is this unsanitary, but I find it disgusting.

What are your thoughts? I've done away with the candy jar,

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



but this happens at dinner, too.

WASH UP! IN ILLINOIS

DEAR WASH: Your husband should wash his hands after using the bathroom, if only out of respect for your feelings. That he refuses speaks volumes about him. I would suggest having sanitary wipes on your dinner table, but he would probably refuse to use them.

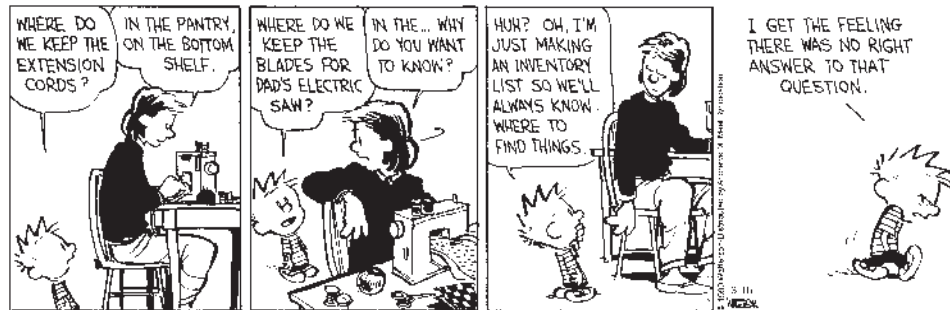
Doing away with the candy dish was smart. Now it's time to plate your husband's food for him in the kitchen so that his fingers won't touch the communal food. And if he pitches a fit, plate your own so he can't touch it.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



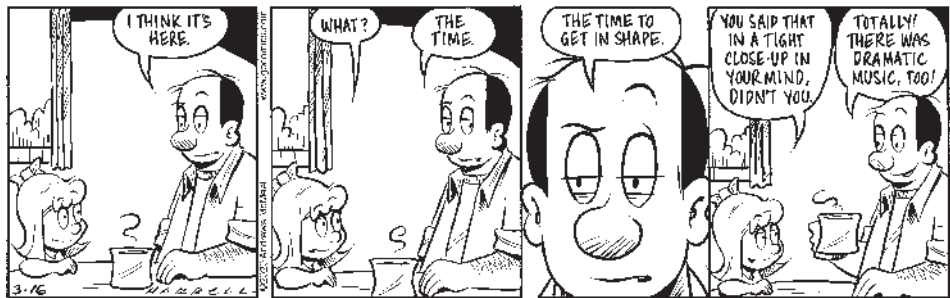
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "You've got mail" ISP
4 Chest muscle
7 Prejudice
11 Detail, briefly
13 Lawyers' org.
14 They give a hoot
15 — time (never)
16 Fish-fowl link
17 "I'm a klutz!"
18 Sacred song
20 Cranny
22 Granola grain
24 Laundry holder
28 "No cause for alarm"
32 Sorta
33 "That's — ask"
34 Evening hrs.
36 Equipment
37 Trolley sound
39 Popular Rio beach
41 Snarl

DOWN

43 Sashimi fish
44 Afrikaner
46 Ear bone
50 Celloist Ma
53 "Norma —"
55 Stadium event
56 Sandwich cookie
57 Medit. nation
58 Whirl
59 Calendar row
60 Clean air org.
61 Conclusion
3 Sultry Horne
4 Zero-star review
5 Black, in verse
6 Ersatz chocolate
7 Barnes & Noble events
8 — Jima
9 Jungfrau, e.g.
10 Snake's sound
12 It may be sold with a box of crayons
19 Chess piece
21 Sturdy tree
23 Spinning toy
25 Leg joint
26 Dutch cheese
27 O'Hara estate
28 Datum
29 Jazzy Fitzgerald
30 Arkin of "Argo"
31 Texter's "More than I need to know!"
35 Hot tub
38 Day — paint
40 "Caught ya!"
42 Haunting
45 Grate
47 Smoke an e-cig
48 Poker player's declaration
49 Give temporarily
50 "That hurts!"
51 Tramcar contents
52 "— haw!" (rodeo cry)
54 Geological period

Solution time: 26 mins.

A	M	A	S	S	H	T	S	S	S
M	E	R	I	T	E	A	R	I	I
S	H	H	R	A	R	I	Z	O	N
A	I	E	L	L	O	C	R	E	M
U	R	N	W	I	T	E	N	T	R
N	I	N	O	C	H	A	L	K	
A	M	A	L	F	I	S	M	E	A
D	I	T	C	H	D	R	A	N	O
S	C	U	D	S	A	E	R	I	A
P	A	S	O	E	N	S	U	E	S
A	R	G	A	T	O	S	W	I	G
C	O	N	A	V	E	S	E	N	S
E	N	G	H	A	S	O	R	G	A

Last Friday's Answer 03/16

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alexandra Daddario, 34; Lauren Graham, 53; Victor Garber, 71; Chuck Woolery, 79.

Happy Birthday: Set goals that are realistic but also stretch your intelligence, motivation and expectations. Reach for the stars, and be willing to take on whatever challenge comes your way. You will see new situations this year, but when it comes to your reactions, control will be necessary. Getting involved in gossip, rumors or secret matters will work against you. Your numbers are 4, 12, 20, 27, 33, 36, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Consider the challenges you face and who is involved. Be direct, precise and leave nothing to chance. Protect your reputation and your personal information and passwords. Learn from whatever experience you encounter, and push forward with greater enthusiasm and drive. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A change will take place if you are honest regarding your intentions. Gather information, and prepare to discuss your plans. Gaining knowledge, traveling and nurturing meaningful relationships are favored. An attitude adjustment will help you infiltrate something that eluded you in the past. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't be fooled by what someone says. Uncertainty will set in if you fall for someone's fast talk. Added responsibility at home will put you in a vulnerable position. Wait for a better time to express your feelings or your plans. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Share your thoughts. Put your imagination to work for you, and you'll come up with a unique

idea that will raise interest as well as awareness. Look for a way to masterfully put your plans in motion. Personal gain is favored. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Let go of a grudge, and move on. A new approach or attitude will help you revise relationships that have undergone stressful or sensitive times. A personal change may not be something you want, but it will be in your best interest. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Embark on a new task, hobby or pastime. Explore the possibilities, and open your mind to new activities. Relationships will cause you to question motives. Evaluate your situation, and modify what isn't working for you anymore. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Make a reasonable suggestion, and you'll get your way. Thinking too big or taking on too much should be stopped before you begin. A timeout to rest and rethink your objectives and motives will help clear your vision. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A surprise will lead to an unexpected opportunity. You'll discover something you are good at if you explore possibilities. Visiting a retreat or a place offering unfamiliar surroundings will inspire you. Romance is encouraged; set the mood and enjoy. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Sharing will make or break you today. Keeping things equal will be a challenge, especially if you are dealing with someone you are trying to impress or please. Don't take on a project you can't afford. Empty promises will disrupt your plans. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't reveal secret information. You can win a settlement or get what's owed to you if you state your case and refuse to budge. Be prepared to disclose the information that will prove your position, losses or claims. ***



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Someone experienced will show you the ropes. Learn all you can, and venture out on your own. Using new skills and knowledge will help you bring about a worthwhile change based on what you have to offer. ***



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Refuse to let your emotions rule your life. Make decisions based on facts, not on what others do or say. Sensitive information will become public if you are too open or opinionated. Don't let anyone disrupt your plans. **

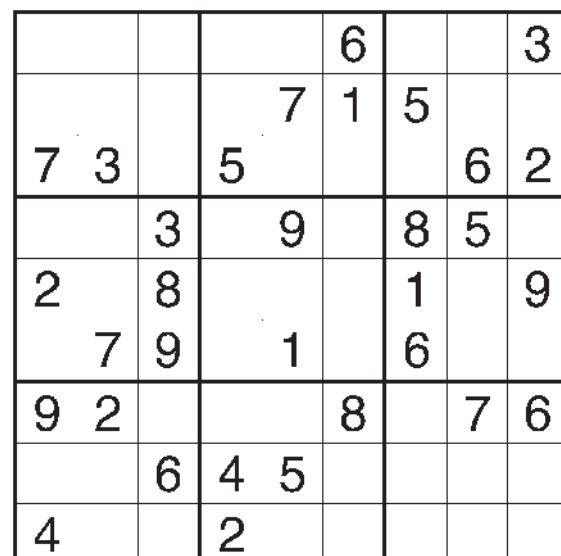
Birthday Baby: You are enthusiastic, imaginative and reliable. You are diligent and convincing.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



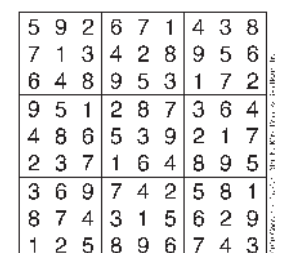
Difficulty Level ★

3/16

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

STUDYING FOR EXAMS

Solution: 7 letters

R T O P I C S C I E N C E R S
E E L T I T S K I L L S U Y U
H A N S W E R M O D U L E D W
C C U E C A R D S O E E T U R
A M M R E P A P P Z B E A T I
E I M U R M M E I K A P R S T
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Last Friday's Answer: World War One

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NBA hiatus will likely last 'at least' a month



MIAMI (AP)—NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said Thursday night that the league's hiatus because of the coronavirus pandemic will likely last at least a month, or roughly what would have been the remainder of an uninterrupted regular season.

"What we determined today is that this hiatus will be, most likely, at least 30 days," Silver said on TNT's "Inside The NBA" while making his first public comments since the league suspended play Wednesday night after Utah Jazz center Rudy Gobert tested positive for the coronavirus, or COVID-19. A second Jazz player, Donovan Mitchell, said Thursday that he has also tested positive.

Later, in an open letter to NBA fans, Silver said "we intend to resume the season, if and when it becomes safe for all concerned."

Silver did not say if the league intends for the regular season to resume or if the NBA, should it return to action, would immediately go into postseason play. It's also unclear if play will be able to resume with fans in the stands, something the league's owners were willing to go without prior to Gobert's diagnosis and the escalation of the situation. The 30-day minimum hiatus would mean no games until at least April 10.

Silver said the league and the players association will have to continue determining "what makes sense here without compromising anyone's safety and I think it's frankly too early to tell," Silver said.

The regular season was to go until April 15, with the playoffs scheduled to start on April 18 and the NBA Finals to begin June 4. The NBA's 30-day plan was decided on the same day that Major League Soccer announced a 30-day shutdown in response to the virus, that Major League Baseball said opening day would be delayed at least two weeks and the NHL began what it called a "pause" in its season.

"This literally changes hour-by-hour in terms of what we know," Silver said.

Silver was also asked on TNT if the season may be over. "Of course it's possible," Silver said. "I just don't know more at this point."

Meanwhile, NBA great and longtime commentator Charles Barkley was not on the "Inside The NBA" broadcast Thursday night and revealed that he is self-quarantining for 48 hours because he has not felt well since a recent trip to New York.

Barkley said he has been tested for COVID-19 and has



Utah Jazz guard Jordan Clarkson (00) drives to the basket against Detroit Pistons forward Christian Wood (35) with Pistons guard Jordan McRae (52) and Jazz center Rudy Gobert (27) following the play during the second half of an NBA game Saturday, March 7, 2020, in Detroit.

not yet received the results. "This thing is so scary," Barkley said.

For now, NBA players have been told to remain in their home market through at least Monday—some teams such as the Toronto Raptors that are self-quarantining would, in theory, need to remain place for longer—and speak to a team physician or team athletic trainer once daily. Group workouts and practices are not being permitted yet.

In most cases the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

The vast majority of people recover from the new virus; in mild cases it can take about two weeks, in more severe cases it can take 3-6 weeks. "This remains part of a complicated and rapidly evolving situation that reminds us that we are all part of a broader society with a responsibility to look out for one another," Silver wrote. "That is what the NBA will continue to do, and we are grateful for your understanding and for being the best fans in sports."

There are 259 games left unplayed on this season's schedule. If the regular season is not resumed, that would be the second-largest number of games missed in league history.

The 2011-12 season was shortened by a total of 240 games because of a lockout that wound up trimming 16 games from each team's schedule. The 1998-99 season lost 464 games because of

another lockout where teams wound up playing a 50-game schedule.

Shutting down could cost the league hundreds of millions in revenue such as tickets sold, concessions and purchases of souvenirs and merchandise—adding to the financial concerns of a year where the league lost as much as \$400 million, by its own estimate, after a rift last fall that started with a tweet by Houston Rockets general manager Daryl Morey in support of anti-government protesters in Hong Kong.

It also could cost players as

well.

What is called a "Force Majeure Event"—the legal term for unforeseeable circumstances, such as an epidemic or pandemic—could come into play. Per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, players could lose 1.08% of their annual salary for each game missed.

That means Stephen Curry of the Golden State Warriors, the league's highest-paid player this season, could lose about \$435,000 for each game that ultimately is not played. A player who had a two-way contract converted to a regular NBA deal for this season

would stand to lose about \$9,700 per game.

Pistons' Wood tests positive

Christian Wood of the Detroit Pistons has tested positive for the coronavirus, a person with direct knowledge of the situation said Saturday night.

Wood is feeling fine, according to the person who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because neither the Pistons nor Wood had publicly confirmed his positive result. Wood's diagnosis became known one week after he played against

the Utah Jazz

The Pistons later confirmed that a player—they did not name Wood—tested positive Saturday and has been in self-isolation.

"A player on the Detroit Pistons, who is under the care of team medical staff and in self-isolation since Wednesday night, was tested for COVID-19," the team said. "A preliminary positive result came back on March 14. The health and safety of our players, our organization, those throughout our league, and all those potentially impacted by this situation is paramount."

Saints coach thinks virus could delay NFL free agency



ARKANSAS—Sports might be mostly shut down, but horse racing remains active. And New Orleans Saints head coach Sean Payton was one of the folks not quarantined, taking in the ponies for a full racing slate at Oaklawn Park in Hot Springs on Saturday.

And Payton seems to think that the NFL's offseason could be the next delayed sports-related event affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

Asked what effect it has had to this point on the league, Payton sounded like a man who is not expecting the free-agency period to begin on time as planned next week.

"Yeah, I think most immediately, the start of our league year, which is due to be this [coming] Wednesday, I think, when free agency begins

... that's gonna be, I think, pushed back," Payton said. "Because there's a lot that goes into that, a lot of visits players take."

So far, there has been no official word from the league on any changes to the start of free agency.

The NFL has canceled its spring meeting, which was scheduled to start March 29, but has not otherwise altered any major portion of its schedule yet. The biggest change came with the elimination of pre-draft visits to NFL teams prior to the draft, as well as visits to schools with NFL prospects, keeping all meetings with teams to strictly limited online interactions.

The Pro Football Hall of Fame also announced that it will close its doors temporarily, through at least March 27.

Payton was also asked about the 2020 NFL draft,

which remains scheduled (for now) for April 23-25 in Las Vegas.

"I don't know if that's going to change, date-wise," he said. "Certainly, the format is going to change, relative to what they're used to."

The expectation is that the scene in Las Vegas won't look a thing like it did in Nashville a year ago, with the draft attracting some 600,000 visitors. It's possible that the grandiose plans for the event will undergo major changes, assuming things don't change dramatically in the coming days and weeks.

Meanwhile, The Washington Redskins placed the franchise tag on three-time Pro Bowl guard Brandon Scherff on Saturday to keep him in the fold next season.

Scherff and Washington had been in talks on a long-term deal. Instead, the Red-

skins ensured their 2015 first-round pick would not reach free agency.

The 28-year-old could have been among the NFL's highest-paid guards had he hit the open market. He dealt with numerous injuries the past two seasons but has been a force for Washington when healthy.

Scherff was named to his third Pro Bowl in 2019 after starting 11 games. He has started all 65 games he has played in since turning pro out of Iowa and being drafted fifth overall by the Redskins five years ago.

The Redskins used the regular, not the exclusive, franchise tag on Scherff, meaning he can still talk to other teams. They'd have the right to match another offer or receive two first-round picks as compensation. They also have until July 15 to negotiate a long-term contract.

MLB players may not get paid during virus crisis

N E W YORK—Major League

Baseball has a number of issues to grapple with after canceling spring training and delaying the start of the 2020 regular season. Officials are scrambling to figure out a new schedule, how to adjust service time and whether season-long incentives will change if the season has to be shortened.

One of the biggest issues, however, revolves around whether players will be paid while the season is on hiatus due to the coronavirus—also known as COVID-19. By declaring a national emergency Friday, President Donald Trump may have given MLB an answer to that question, according to Evan Drellich and Ken Rosenthal of The Athletic.

Due to a clause in major-league contracts, commissioner Rob Manfred can suspend deals “during any national emergency.”

On Thursday, when Manfred announced that the 2020 season would be delayed, the first sentence of his statement included the phrase, “national emergency.” A clause in every major league player’s contract—and also included in the sport’s collective-bargaining agreement—gives the commissioner the right “to suspend the operation of this contract during any national emergency during which Major League Baseball is not played.” If Trump had not acted, the union might have argued that Manfred could not invoke a national emergency on his own.

As Drellich and Rosenthal note, Manfred used the phrase “national emergency” in the first sentence of his statement announcing the delay of the 2020 regular season. Prior to Trump’s declaration, the MLB Players Association could have argued Manfred did not



AP
New York Yankees pitcher Jonathan Loaisiga warms up before facing the Washington Nationals during the first inning of a spring training baseball game, Thursday, March 12, 2020, in West Palm Beach, Fla.

have the power to invoke a national emergency. That argument now won’t work if MLB decides to hold paychecks from players.

Uncertainty over that issue has led to some confusion among the players. Some players and agents are afraid that players leaving spring training now could make it easier for MLB to withhold wages. A source told Drellich and Rosenthal that wasn’t the case. Still, players are staying ready so they can play games sooner. The players believe they can use that readiness to “create a greater justification

for getting paid, both to the public and MLB.”

While MLB can technically withhold pay from players during a national emergency, Manfred isn’t set on doing that, according to Drellich and Rosenthal. The league has reportedly discussed options that would allow owners to pay players in advance of the 2020 season getting underway. Players only get paid in season, and do not receive paychecks in the offseason. It’s unclear how any proposal from the league would change in MLB has to shorten its season.

There is no mention of mi-

nor-league players in Drellich and Rosenthal’s article. Minor-league players are among the most underserved and vulnerable groups affected by the regular-season delay. Like major-leaguer players, minor leaguers only get paid in season. Unlike major-league players, the overwhelming majority of minor leaguers are not paid a living wage.

Player wages are far from the only issue the league faces. Planning an altered schedule is a difficult undertaking. If that schedule includes fewer than 162 games, new service-time rules will have to be implemented for this sea-

son. Will prospects like Nate Pearson or Nick Madrigal still need to sit in the minors for three weeks so teams can manipulate their service time?

On top of that, many players have season-long incentives as part of their contracts. Minnesota Twins pitcher Kenta Maeda, for example, receives bonuses based on how many innings he pitches in a season. His contract was assembled assuming he would play in 162 games. How will his incentives be treated if the season is 20 games shorter?

There’s also the issue of when the regular season will

actually start. MLB initially pushed the regular season by two weeks, but that timeline still presents issues in some cities. Illinois governor J.B. Pritzker wants all sporting events in Chicago to be canceled until May. Team owners in the city have reportedly agreed to that plan.

Yankees stay for spring training

The New York Yankees aren’t ready to go home.

According to player representative Zack Britton, Yankees’ players have unanimously voted to stay and continue working out at the team facility in Florida despite MLB canceling spring training and delaying opening day.

Yankees general manager Brian Cashman reiterated that the decision lies with each individual player. If a player prefers to go home, he’s allowed to do so.

Britton says the decision was made during a meeting with every player currently at Yankees big league camp. The veteran reliever added that measures are being taken to ensure the clubhouse is “consistently decontaminated” so that players are not worried about the coronavirus.

The Yankees have agreed to provide breakfast ahead of the workouts, which Britton says will be structured but less organized than a typical spring training workout.

The Yankees are the first team to fully commit to maintaining a “business as usual” approach.

DUSSELDORF, Germany (AP)—The Premier League and the Champions League were both suspended Friday as the chaos stemming from the coronavirus outbreak continues to impact soccer.

The French and German leagues also dropped plans to play this weekend. After Spain and Italy previously made similar moves, all five of Europe’s biggest national competitions are now on hold.

Matches in England will be stopped until at least April 3 after five Premier League clubs said some players or staff were in self-isolation. Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta has tested positive for the virus, as has Chelsea winger Callum Hudson-Odoi.

“I had the virus for the last couple of days, which I’ve re-

Premier League, Champions League call off matches

covered from,” Hudson-Odoi said in a video posted on social media. “I’m following the health guidelines and self-isolating myself from everybody for the week. I hope to see everybody soon and hopefully be back on the pitch very soon. Take care.”

UEFA said it was stopping next week’s games in all competitions, including the two remaining Champions League matches which had not been already called off -- Bayern Munich vs. Chelsea and Barcelona vs. Napoli, both scheduled for Wednesday.

Games involving Juventus and Real Madrid had already been postponed because those clubs quarantined their players.

There have been more than 128,000 cases and 4,700 deaths globally since the virus outbreak started late last year. Most people quickly recover from the virus after experiencing only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks.

The decision from UEFA comes four days ahead of a meeting to decide the European soccer calendar, including the possible one-year postponement of the 2020 Eu-

ropean Championship.

CONCACAF suspends men’s Olympic qualifying

In Miami, the men’s Olympic qualifying was suspended Friday in soccer’s North and Central American and Caribbean region because of the coronavirus.

The U.S. under-23 team already was in Guadalajara, Mexico, where it had been scheduled to play group stage matches against Costa Rica on March 20, the Dominican Republic three days later and Mexico on March 26. The other teams are Canada, El Salvador, Haiti and Honduras. The two semifinal winners join the 16-nation

Olympic field in Japan.

CONCACAF did not announce a new date for qualifying. The U.S. failed to qualify for the 2012 and 2016 Olympics.

Olympic qualifying is limited to players under 23 as of last Jan. 1. Complicating matters, clubs do not have to release players to under-23 teams under FIFA rules, so if qualifying is rescheduled teams may be forced to make roster changes.

MLS shutting down for 30 days

In Fort Lauderdale, Major League Soccer is shutting down for 30 days because of the coronavirus, delaying the home opener for the expansion

team co-owned by former England captain David Beckham.

“Our clubs were united today in the decision to temporarily suspend our season -- based on the advice and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Public Health Agency of Canada and other public health authorities,” MLS Commissioner Don Garber said in a statement Thursday.

Inter Miami, co-owned by Beckham and Jorge Mas, had been scheduled to play its home opener Saturday. MLS started its season on Feb. 29 and each of the 26 teams has played two league matches.

In addition, the U.S. Soccer Federation canceled exhibitions in March and April for its men’s and women’s national teams as a precaution.

Saipan Little League season suspended

By **ROSELYN B. MONROY**
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REPORTER



The Saipan Little League Baseball's 2020 season hasn't started, yet it has been suspended due to the COVID-19 crisis.

SLLB officials informed participating teams last Friday that it will be kicking off the new season on March 14, but the opening day was called

off early morning last Saturday after they received a letter from the Little League headquarters in Williamsport.

"Little League International operates more than 6,500 programs in more than 84 countries, and therefore, we recommend that our leagues exercise an abundance of caution and implement a temporary suspension of all league activities until no earlier than April 6," the letter stated.

SLLB had earlier scheduled

a Feb. 29 kickoff, but the open-er was reset, as some teams still

needed to complete paperwork. The league will have com-

petitions in Minor, Major, Junior, and Senior League divisions with games to be played at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield and the Miguel

"Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield. Five teams each are entered in the Minor and Major, three in the Junior, and two in the Senior.



ROSELYN B. MONROY

A Saipan Little League Baseball player gets ready at bat during a practice session at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield last month. The 2020 season of SLLB is suspended until further notice.

NBA

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and I don't want to be the person to infect my family.

Being immune-compromised, I'm at a higher risk of contracting the virus. So, better safe than sorry and there are other races to slay in the future.

It doesn't diminish a tinge of regret though that I didn't get the finisher's shirt and medal I've been pining for more than a year.

To all the winners, participants, volunteers, and organizers of the 2020 Saipan Marathon, strong work, if I could

borrow the immortal words of former CNMI triathlon and tennis national team member Peter Sinclair.

As for what to do without the NBA and other sports we've come enjoy on the boob tube, computer, laptop or any ubiquitous mobile device, there's still Ultimate Fighting Championship and WrestleMania.

If those don't tickle your fancy you can binge watch shows on your favorite streaming service. I just finished watching *Outbreak* and will soon play *Space Jam* on Netflix. Seems appropriate for the times.

SAIPAN

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In the women's division, Tomomi Nakajima, also from Japan, reached the finish line first, as she checked in at the 2:54:41 mark and was the lone runner to break the three-hour barrier.

Joining Hanashima, the champion of Laguna Phuket Marathon in Thailand last year, in the Top 6 overall in the women's division were her compatriot Naomi Washizu (3:13:39), Saipan's Heather Taylor (3:24:00), and Japan's Maki Narita (3:30:05), Ruri Wakamatsu (3:31:56), and Yuko Muto (3:37:50).

In the half marathon, Guam's Manami Iijima, who is preparing for this weekend's Tagaman Triathlon, reigned supreme in the women's field after recording 1:28:20—

more than three minutes ahead of Japan's Marina Matsuura (1:31:57).

Two Saipan runners—Akiko Miller (1:49:33) and Kimiko McKagan (1:57:09)—made it to the Top 6 overall, while Heather Popa (1:57:35) of the U.S. and Keiko Nakakuramai (1:58:59) of Japan were also on the elite list.

In the men's half marathon Japanese Kazuaki Okamoto outsprinted compatriot Yuki Uchiyama to the finish line, as the former clocked in at 1:14:16 against the latter's 1:14:32.

Completing the Top 6 in the men's half marathon race that also started and ended at the AMP with a turnaround point at PIC were Guam's Derek Mendell (1:17:33), Japan's Shintaro Natsume (1:18:20) and Samuel Smith (1:25:08), and Peter Blas (1:41:46) of the U.S.

The unsung hero of weight loss and diet restriction

Before I get to my last wave of clients I always hit up the cafe or coffee shop. Can't speak for everybody, but nothing gets my creative juices flowing than sipping on a hot brew with Ice Cube's *It Was a Good Day* playing. As I write this, I'm already waiting for my second cup to be poured.

This got me thinking about my never-ending wrestling match with people who are simply trying to get healthier and considerably leaner. Most go to great lengths pulling on different levers in hopes of finding the absolute best plan. Not once does it ever occur that maybe, just maybe instead of over analyzing the situation, perhaps approach things with less angst.

Q: How is it that there are some people who easily lose weight?

A: It's hard a pill to swallow, but there are people who have a genetic predisposition to losing weight and gaining muscle much faster than others. That having been said, there are other variables we can control. Beyond hitting the gym and dieting, the overlooked and unexpected component that is pretty significant is your non-exercise activity. Moving throughout the day accounts for a good chunk of your caloric output. Track your steps, make it a habit to get up and walk 5-10 minutes every hour you're sitting at your desk. Do what you have to. The onus is on

Ask DRE:

By **DRE DELOS SANTOS**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Dre Delos Santos writes about fitness and nutrition for Saipan Tribune and TAGA Sports. He is a personal trainer at Gold's Gym. He is featured on fitness sites such as Weight Watchers, T-Nation, and STACK.



you to maintain a high level of activity outside the gym.

Q: I've thought about it and I'm really going to step my game up with the diet. What do you think?

A: Going cold turkey can be a useful strategy to make strides. However, going too far that-a-way often leads to an unhealthy relationship with food. This highlights the fact that preference and

competing demands have to be taken into account when determining which direction to take. Hopping on a diet or any discipline without any thought on what you are going to be changing in your life is a surefire way of underachieving. Compliance is pretty darn important, and you stand a much better chance when you inject a dose of freedom or some flexibility.

TINIAN

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shot from the right baseline.

However, Mt. Carmel countered with a deuce off a second serving, as Anthony Lajara got the ball after Chioni Dela Cruz faltered on his drive from the left wing, cutting Tinian's lead to 2, 36-38.

Tinian sued for time after Lajara's crucial basket with 14 seconds remaining in the game. When the match resumed, Mt. Carmel opted to give up fouls to stop the clock and send the Stallions to the free throw line. The Knights were called for three quick fouls and another one would have given Tinian a trip to the free throw area. However, Mt. Carmel got a break in the ensuing play, as after nearly forcing its foe to a 5-second inbound violation, Tinian's Malinao Palacios was slapped with a traveling infraction after he received the pass.

The Knights were handed the possession down to the last 7 seconds and coach Francis San Nicolas called his last timeout to map out a make-or-break play for his team.

It turned out to be a heart-breaker for Mt. Carmel. Chioni Dela Cruz's heave from the 3-point area hit nothing but air and although Matthew Richardson picked up the ball, he was not aware of the clock, as he dribbled away from the paint instead of going for the putback that would have sent the game in overtime.

Despite the sorry loss, the Knights are one proud soldier, as they put up a gallant fight against Tinian. Mt. Carmel played five do-or-die matches in just one day, including Game 1 of the finals which it won, 29-23.

The Knights had to play in



ROSELYN B. MONROY

Mt. Carmel School Varsity's Matthew Richardson, right, takes off for a layup against Tinian Junior Senior High School's Tyler Santos during Game 1 of their championship duel in the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Boys High School Basketball League last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

a series of rubber games after losing to Tinian, 21-30, last Friday in the second round of the winners bracket. Tinian debuted in the double-elimination tournament with a victory over Saipan International School, while Mt. Carmel prevailed against Kagman High School Varsity.

Up next for Tinian was Agape Christian School, which advanced to the winners bracket semis after outclassing KHS 3 and Saipan Southern High School. The Stallions went on to beat Agape in the battle for the first finals ticket, 21-13, and also took the twice-to-beat edge

in the championship round.

Tinian had a long break before it returned to the court for its title showdown against the Knights, who had to eliminate MHS Varsity and SSHS to square off against Agape for the second and last berth to the finals. Mt. Carmel, which swept the 11 games in the regular season, ended up beating Agape, 32-27, to get a second crack at Tinian.

In Game 1 of the finals, a well-rested Tinian crew capitalized on the winded Mt. Carmel players, as the Knights were held to one field goal in the first 10 minutes of the 12-minute opening half, allowing the Stallions to take a 10-4 lead.

Dela Cruz scored 7 points for Tinian, while Ricky Cruz made the team's first basket off a triple. Markus Toves delivered the lone field goal for Mt. Carmel plus a pair of free throws, while Richardson, who nearly played without relief in all of the squad's first three rubber matches, added one charity.

A triple from King in the closing minutes of the first half gave the Knights only their second goal, but that sparked the comeback, as Mt. Carmel began hitting its mark in the second half. King made another trey to start the second frame, while Richardson took over to turn the tables on Tinian.

The Knights quarterback scored 12 points in the second half, including back-to-back jumpers in the closing minutes of the game to help Mt. Carmel withstand Tinian's rally. Tinian moved within 1, 20-21, when Richardson knocked in the two baskets to seal it for the Knights and send the finale to a deciding Game 2.

In the rubber, fatigue finally took its toll on Mt. Carmel, as

King and Jeremiah Diaz spent most of the first half on the bench due to cramps, while Richardson joined them later.

Up against a depleted crew, Tinian tried to go for the kill early and went up, 15-4, behind the 10 points of Sir Dela Cruz. Lajara stepped up in absence of Richardson and company to keep the Knights afloat, while Sir Dela Cruz was still on target and finished the half with 15 markers to lift Tinian to 25-19 lead.

Sir Dela Cruz then slowed down a bit in the second half, while Lajara found an ally in Chioni Dela Cruz to help the Knights remain in title contention. However, Sir Dela Cruz delivered the dagger in the end when he collared the offensive board against King and hit the putback that gave Tinian enough cushion.

"It was the kind of close game that we prepared and practiced for back home and I know our boys will come out on top. I never doubted our players so even though we lost Game 1, I was confident they will bounce back and win it," Tinian head coach Keith Nabors said.

Game 2

Tinian 38—Dela Cruz 17, Palacios 12, Epity 4, Cruz 3, Santos 2.

MCS 36—Lajara 18, Dela Cruz 8, King 4, Richardson 2, Toves 2, Ong 2.

Scoring by halves: 25-19, 38-36.

Game 1

MCS 29—Richardson 13, King 10, Toves 4, Dela Cruz 2.

Tinian 23—Dela Cruz 9, Epity 6, Cruz 5, Palacios 2, Santos 1.

Scoring by halves: 8-12, 29-23.



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Tinian wins epic finale



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tinian Junior Senior High School outlasted Mt. Carmel School Varsity in a thrilling championship duel in the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Boys High School Basketball League last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



The Stations clinched the crown after escaping with a 38-36 victory in Game 2 of the finals.

The visiting team did not secure the championship until the last buzzer, as the Knights, despite falling behind by as much as 11 points in the first half (15-4) and losing key players due to fatigue, refused

to give up and threatened to complete the come-from-behind win.

Tinian seemed headed to close the rubber as it led, 38-34, down to the last 21 sec-

onds, after Sir Dela Cruz went over Steve King's back for the offensive rebound and a put-back off Leo Epty's missed

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tinian Junior Senior High School's Sir Dela Cruz drives against Mt. Carmel School Varsity's Merrick Toves, left, and Aven Evangelista in Game 2 of their championship duel in the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Boys High School Basketball League last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

NBA grinds to a halt

For many of us who practically live our lives around the National Basketball Association schedule, last Thursday's announcement by commissioner Adam Silver that the NBA was going on a hiatus was nothing short of sports apocalypse.

There I was watching the Miami Heat squander a 20-point first quarter lead against the lowly Charlotte Hornets, which was a disappointment in itself.

Little did I know that even before the former Bobcats had somehow managed to hoodwink an 11-point win against Miami, an even bigger surprise awaited—all NBA games are suspended for two weeks (later amended to 30 days) after Jazz all-star center Rudy Gobert tested positive for COVID-19.

This was followed by the NCAA's cancellation of March Madness, MLB foregoing

spring training, Major League Soccer postponing games for 30 days like the NBA, and ditto for the NHL.

In the grand scheme of things, sports is just sports and it makes sense for us to focus more on the big picture—the coronavirus outbreak.

But let's be honest. Sports junkies like me only finally came to our senses about the pandemic (yes, WHO declared COVID-19 as a pandemic the same day) when the NBA was suspended even as the death toll from this super bug has reached more than 5,000 with nearly 160,000 cases worldwide.

There was also some sort of karmic justice that Gobert is Patient Zero as far as the NBA is concerned after the Frenchman openly joked about the virus and even touched the microphones and cellphones of reporters during a press conference days before he tested positive.

MARKSMAN

By MARK RABAGO

Associate Editor

Growing up Mark wanted to play pro basketball. When his talent and height didn't measure up, he opted for a career in journalism instead.



Don't get me wrong. I feel bad that the Stifle Tower—who later supposedly infected teammate and fellow all-star Donovan Mitchell—contracted the bug and hope for both their quick recoveries. But let that be a lesson to treat COVID-19 seriously and give it the respect it rightfully deserves.

I'm keeping my fingers crossed that a month from now, COVID-19 would be relegated to the annals of history and—as Gov. Ralph DLG Torres recently said—we can all go back to living normally, including getting my daily fix of pro basketball.

Closer to home, the 2020 Saipan Marathon came and

went last Saturday and so far no one has tested positive from the coronavirus.

However, given its incubation period we're not out of the woods yet. Days before the Saipan Marathon, many sounded of the alarm as more than 200 runners from Japan and Korea registered for the event.

I begged off from running a second consecutive Saipan Marathon. I know if the virus somehow reaches our shores (not necessarily from the runners as it could come from other tourists and residents that have flown here), it's just a matter of time that it spreads

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Saipan
Marathon
returnee
triumphs

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Japanese Yasutaka Monde runs along Beach Road as he heads back to the start/finish line of last Saturday's 2020 Saipan Marathon.

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A returning champion topped last Saturday's 2020 Saipan Marathon.

Yasutaka Monde, who won in the 50K race in the 2015 edition of Marianas Visitors Authority's signature event, completed the 41.195K course in 2:33:12, surpassing the record (2:38:32) of last year's winner Yoshiyuko Ono. The 41-year-old Ono also did last Saturday's race, but dropped to second place overall after

clocking in at 2:40:39.

Rounding out the Top 6 overall finishers in the men's division of the marathon event that started and ended at the American Memorial Park with turnaround points at Banzai Cliff in Marpi up north and Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio down south were Guam's Ryan Matienzo (2:43:05) and Japan's Mamoru Nagata (2:46:06), Takashi Hanashima (2:51:17), and Masayuki Abe (2:52:16).

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